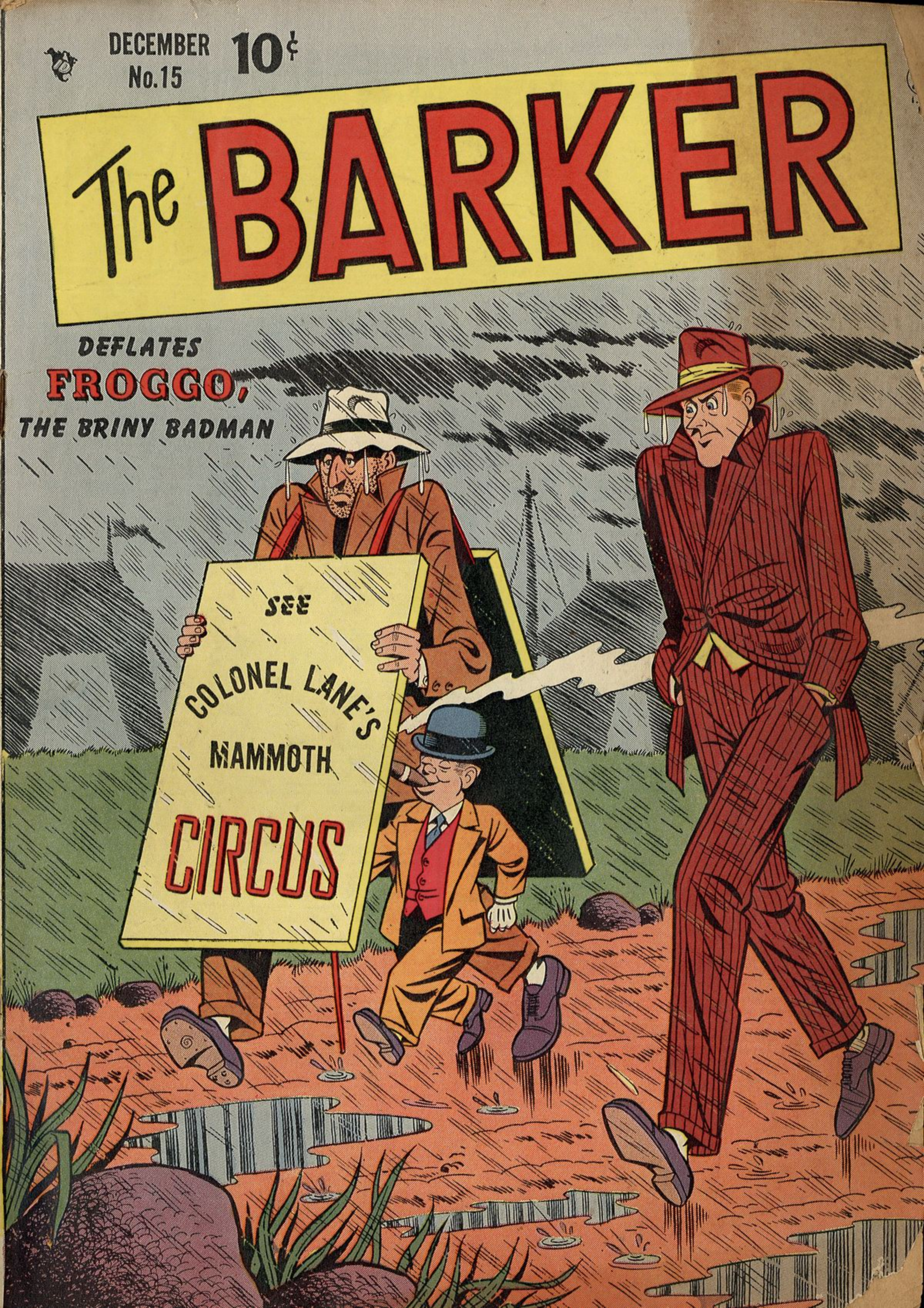
DECEMBER
No.15
10¢

The BARKER

DEFLATES
FROGGO,
THE BRINY BADMAN



Supermouse
Startling Comics
Jetta
Mystery Comics
Fantastic Tales
Cosmo Cat
Startling Comics
Strange Mysteries
Daring Adventures
Startling Comics
Mystery Tales
Exciting Comics
Famous Funnies
Strange Worlds
Startling Comics
Jetta
Mystery Tales
Startling Comics
Barnyard Comics
Exciting Comics
Eerie
Exciting Comics
Casper Cat
Daring Adventures
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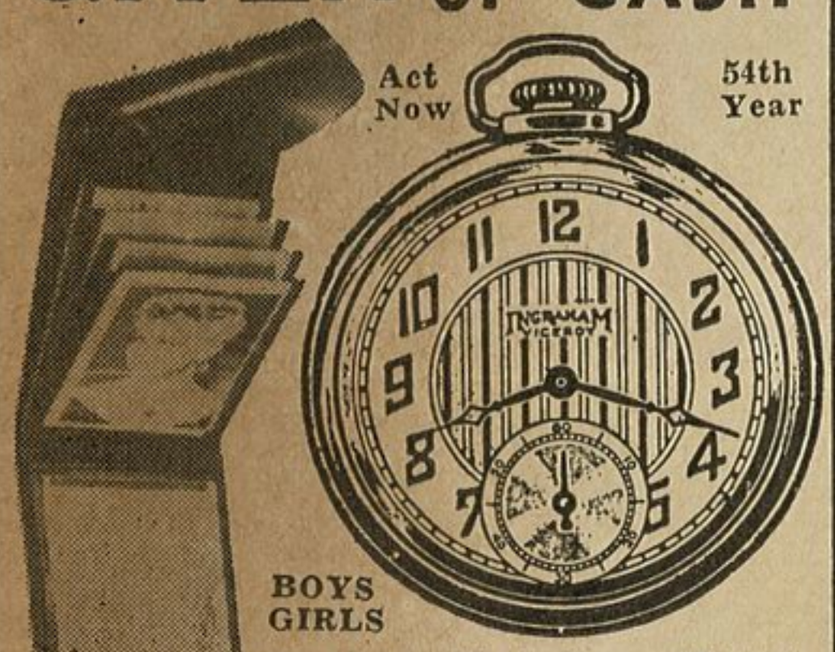
GIVEN PREMIUMS or CASH

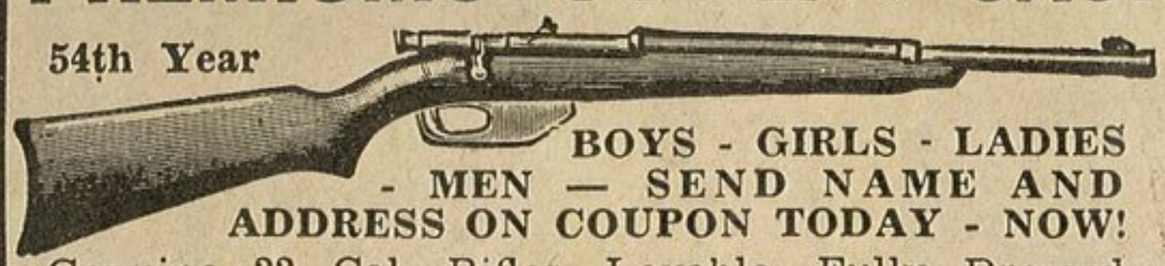


BOYS GIRLS

Pocket Watches, Wrist Watches, Billfolds (sent postage paid). Other Premiums or Cash Commission easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with order postage paid by us to start. Our 54th year. **WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108-A, TYRONE, PA.**

PREMIUMS-GIVEN-CASH

54th Year



BOYS - GIRLS - LADIES - MEN — SEND NAME AND ADDRESS ON COUPON TODAY - NOW!

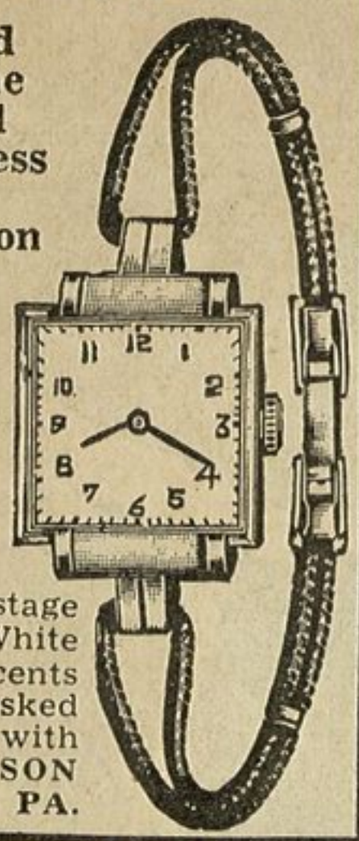
Genuine 22 Cal. Rifles, Lovable, Fully Dressed Dolls over 15 inches in height, Complete School Boxes, Pen & Pencil Sets, (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Write or mail coupon for starting order. Be first. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-B, TYRONE, PA.**

Boys Girls Ladies Men

Act Now

PREMIUMS GIVEN

Send Name And Address On Coupon

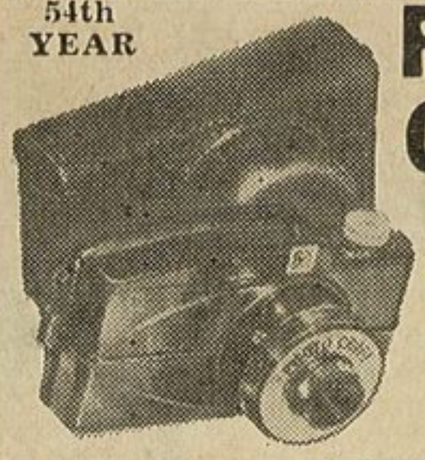


BOYS GIRLS LADIES MEN

WE ARE RELIABLE

Wrist Watches, Pocket Watches, Alarm Clocks, Radios, Record Players (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with order postage paid by us to start. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-C, TYRONE, PA.**

54th YEAR



PREMIUMS - CASH GIVEN

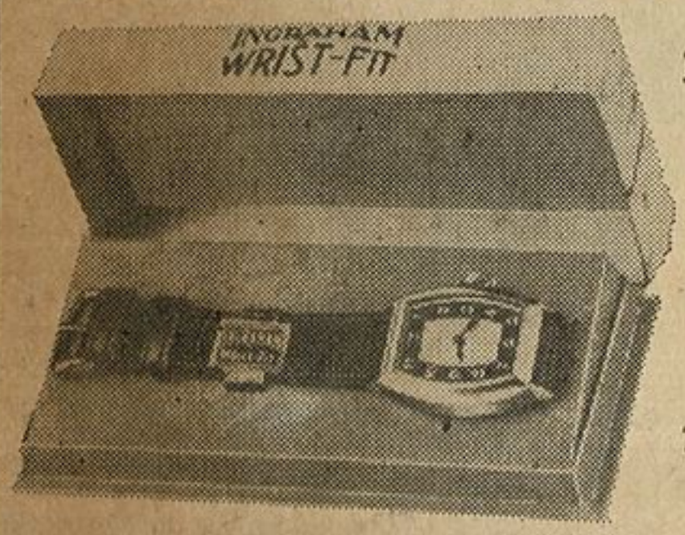
Boys - Girls Ladies - Men

Send Name And Address — We Trust You

Footballs, Candid Cameras with Carrying Cases, Complete Cub Fishing Outfits (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with starting order. **Wilson Chem. Co., Dept. 108-D, Tyrone, Pa.**

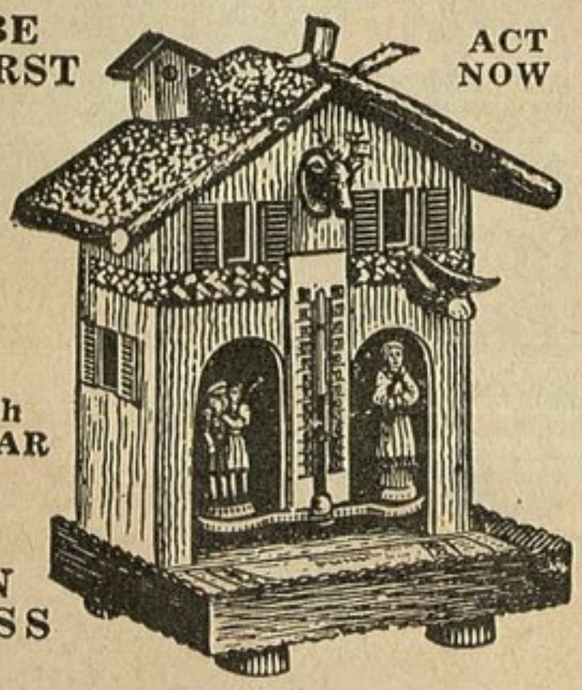
MAIL COUPON

GIVEN PREMIUMS or CASH COMMISSION



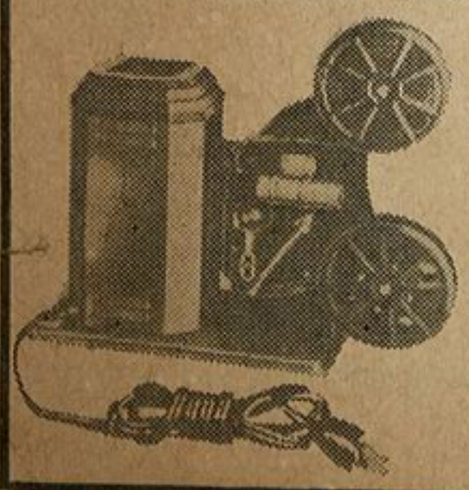
"BE FIRST

ACT NOW



54th YEAR

BOYS - GIRLS - LADIES - MEN SEND NAME AND ADDRESS TODAY



Wrist Watches, Movie Projectors with roll of film, Weather Houses, Pencil Sharpeners (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Our 54th year, We trust you. Be first. **WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. 108-E, TYRONE, PA.**

Mail Coupon

GIVEN

Act Now

BE FIRST

BOYS - MEN — 1000 Shot Daisy Air Rifles with tube of shot (sent postage paid). **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful pictures with White **Cloverine** Brand **Salve** easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Write or mail coupon today. Our 54th year. We are reliable. **WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108-F, TYRONE, PA.**

Mail Coupon Today

WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. 108, TYRONE, PA. Date.....

Gentlemen:—Please send me on trial, twelve colorful art pictures with twelve boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 25c a box (with picture). I will remit amount within 30 days, select a premium or keep Cash Commission as fully explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with my order postage paid to start.

NAME ..... AGE .....

ST. ..... R.D. ..... BOX.....

TOWN ..... ZONE No. ..... STATE.....

Print LAST Name Here

Write or paste coupon on postal card or mail in an envelope

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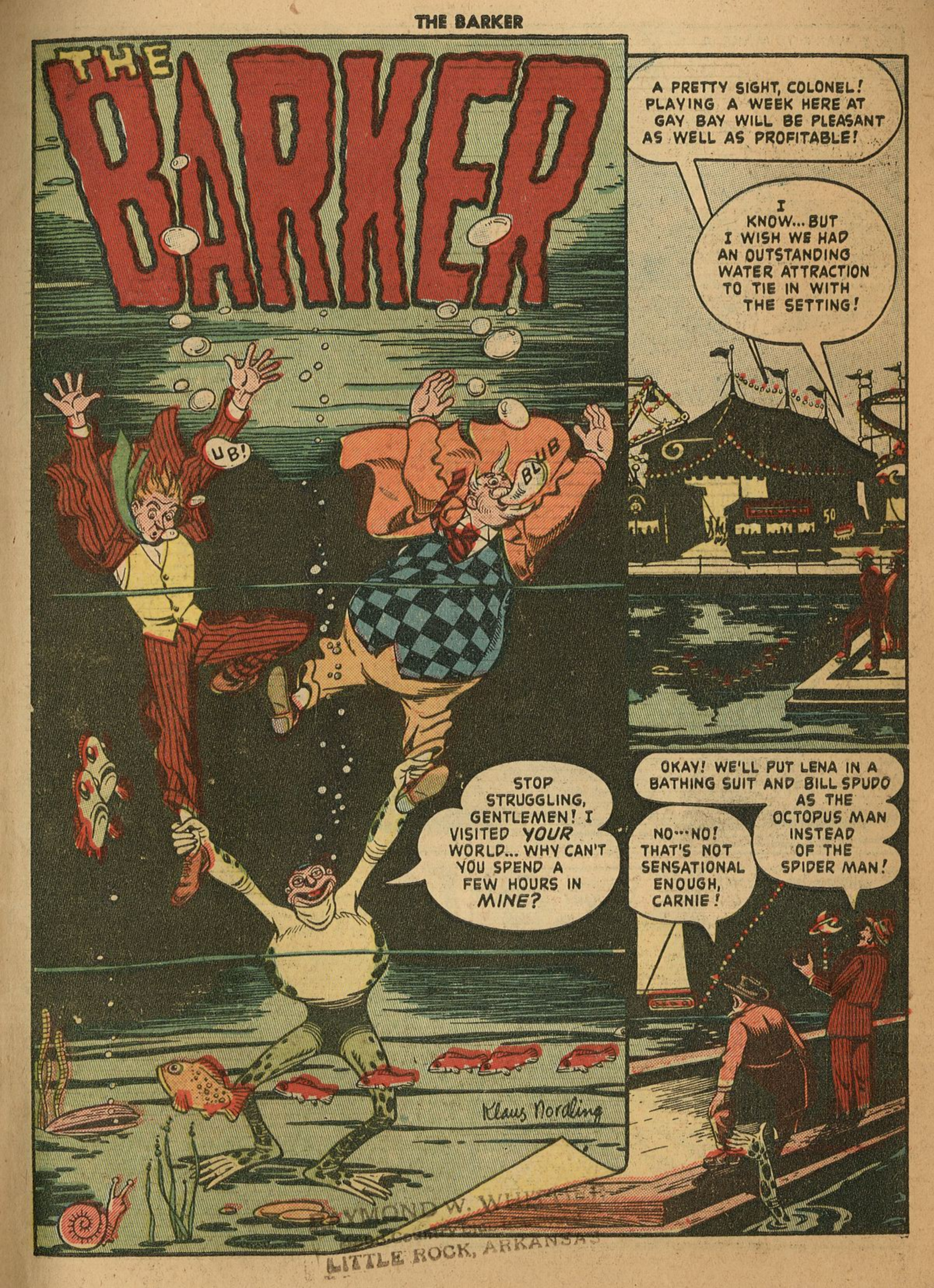
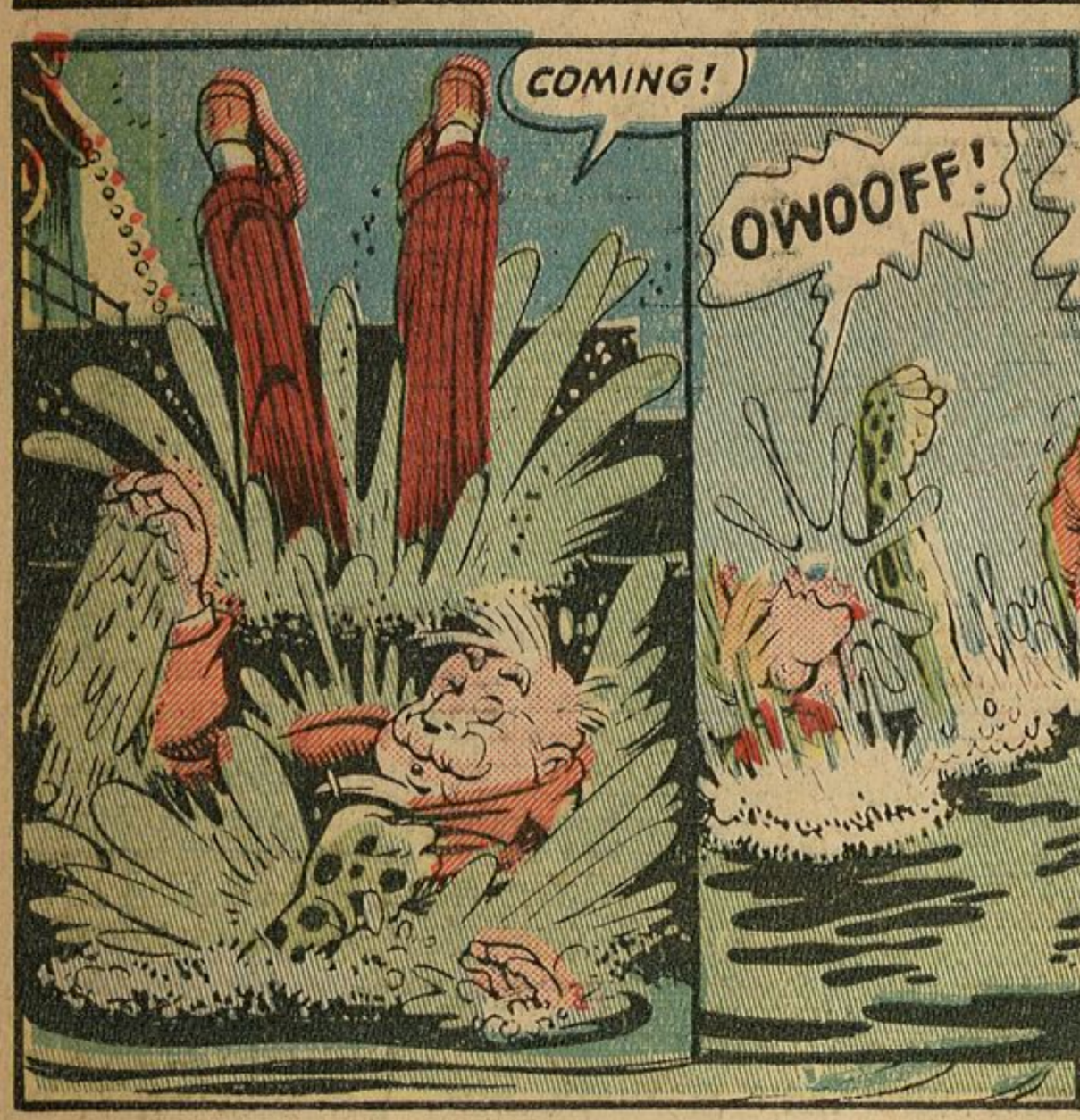
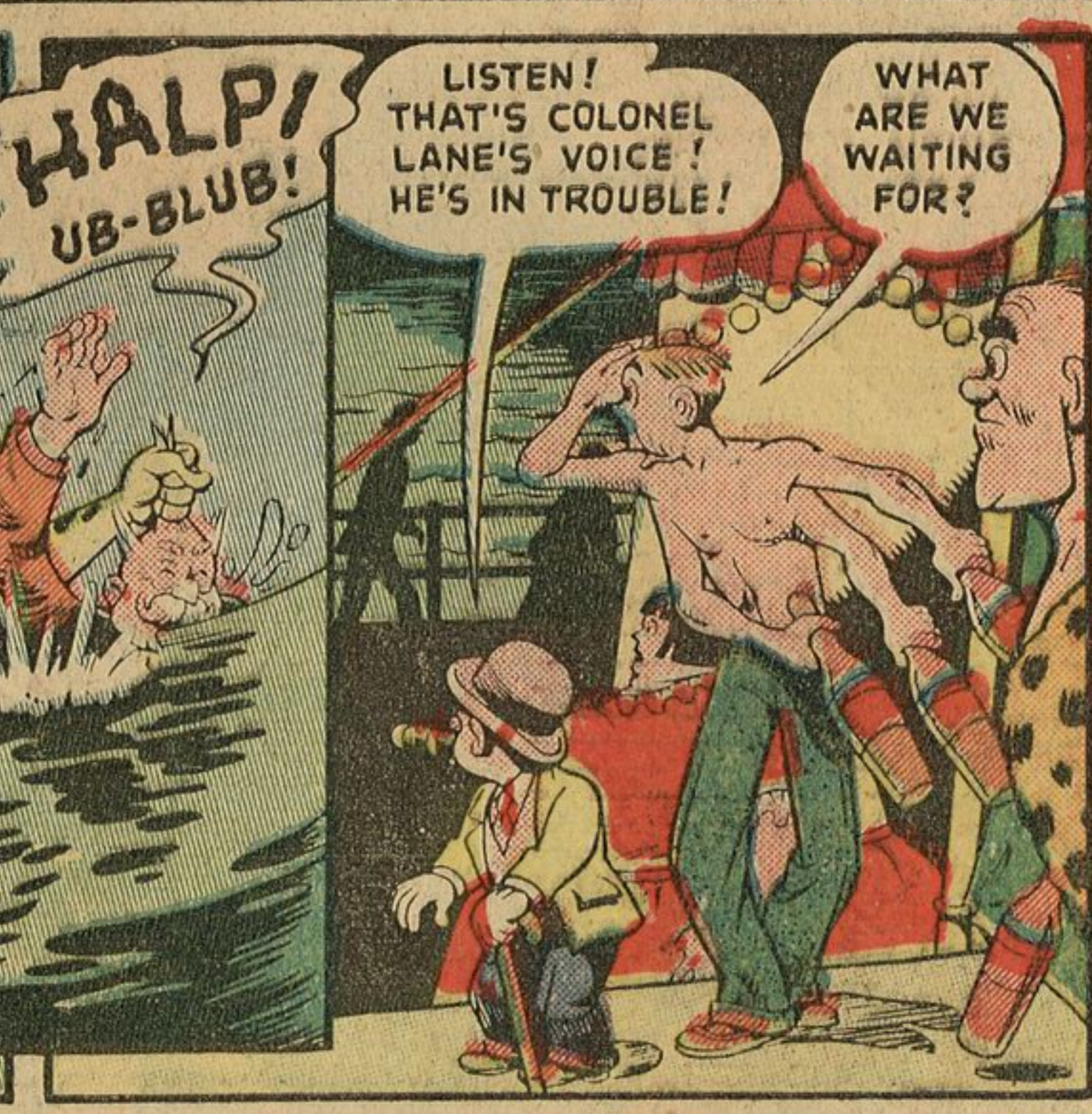


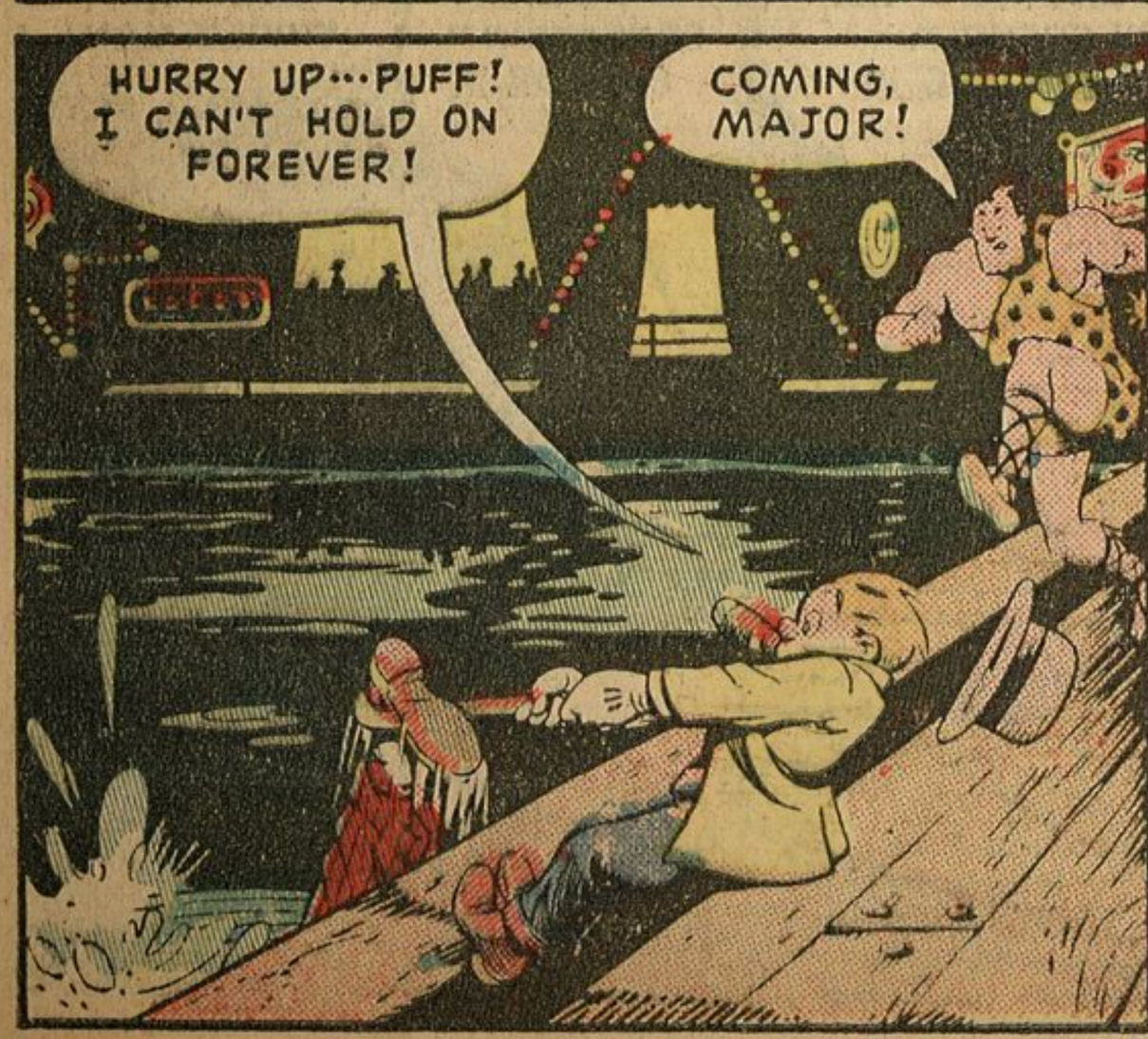
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

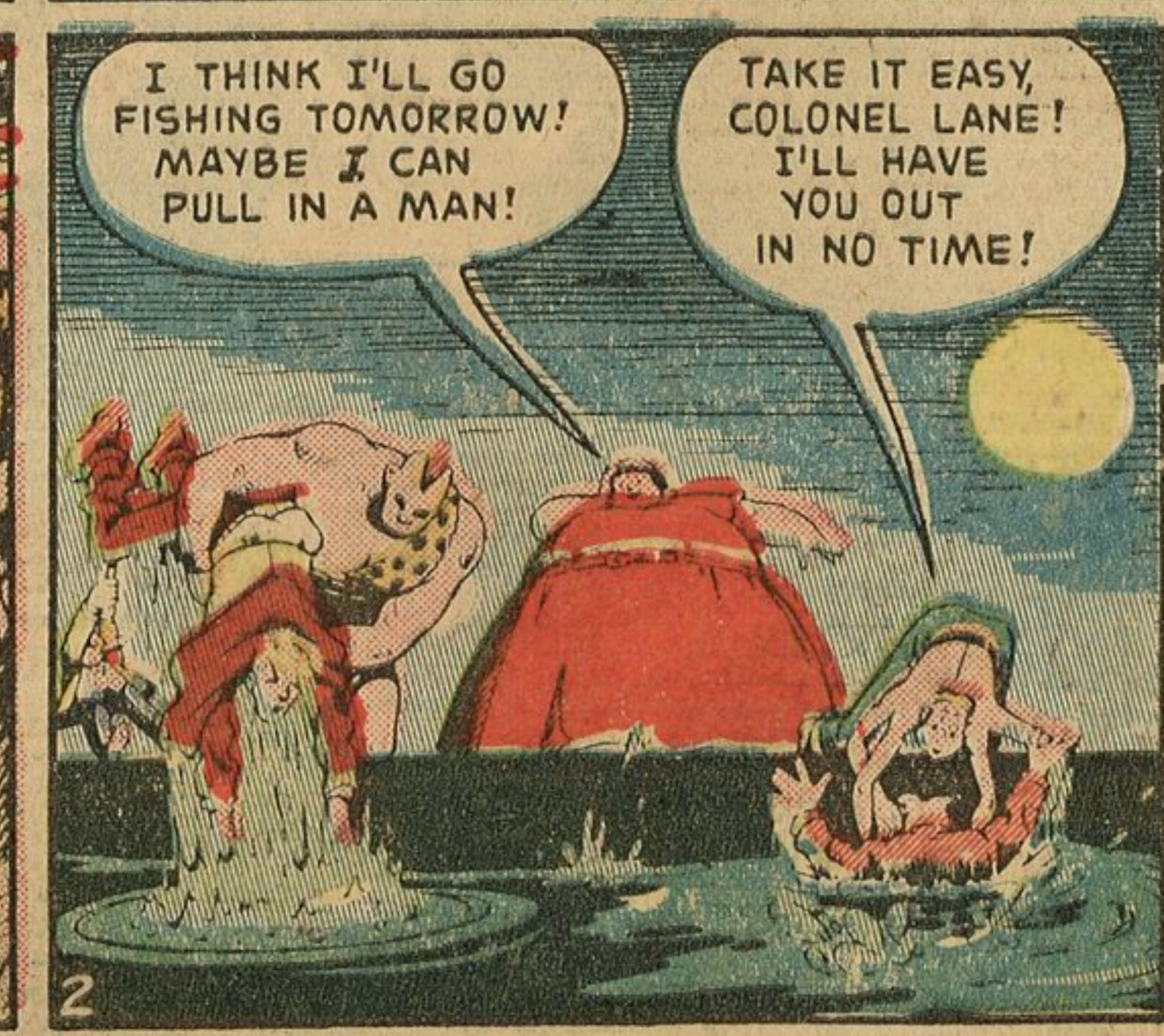
I WANT TO MAKE A BIG SPLASH...
EEEOW!
WHA···?

YOU JUST DID!
HAL-L-P!

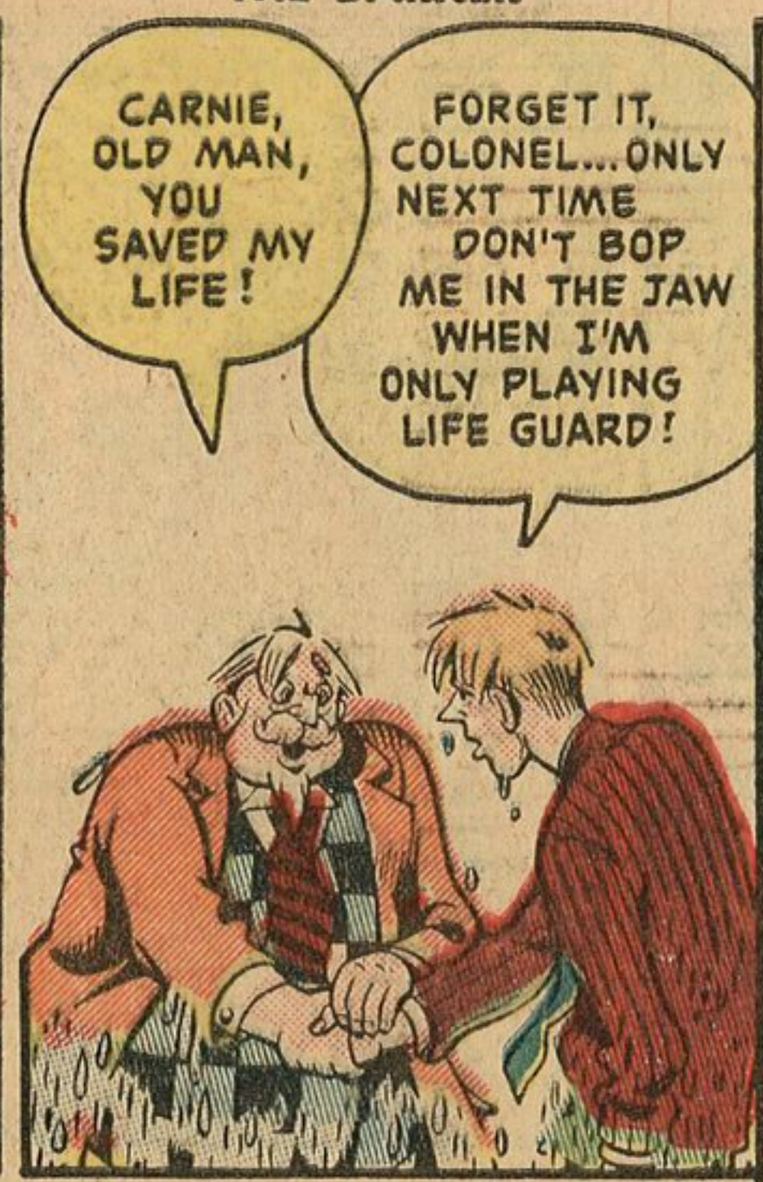

COMING!
OWOOFF!
HALP!
UB-BLUB!


LISTEN! THAT'S COLONEL LANE'S VOICE! HE'S IN TROUBLE!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?


HURRY UP···PUFF! I CAN'T HOLD ON FOREVER!
COMING, MAJOR!

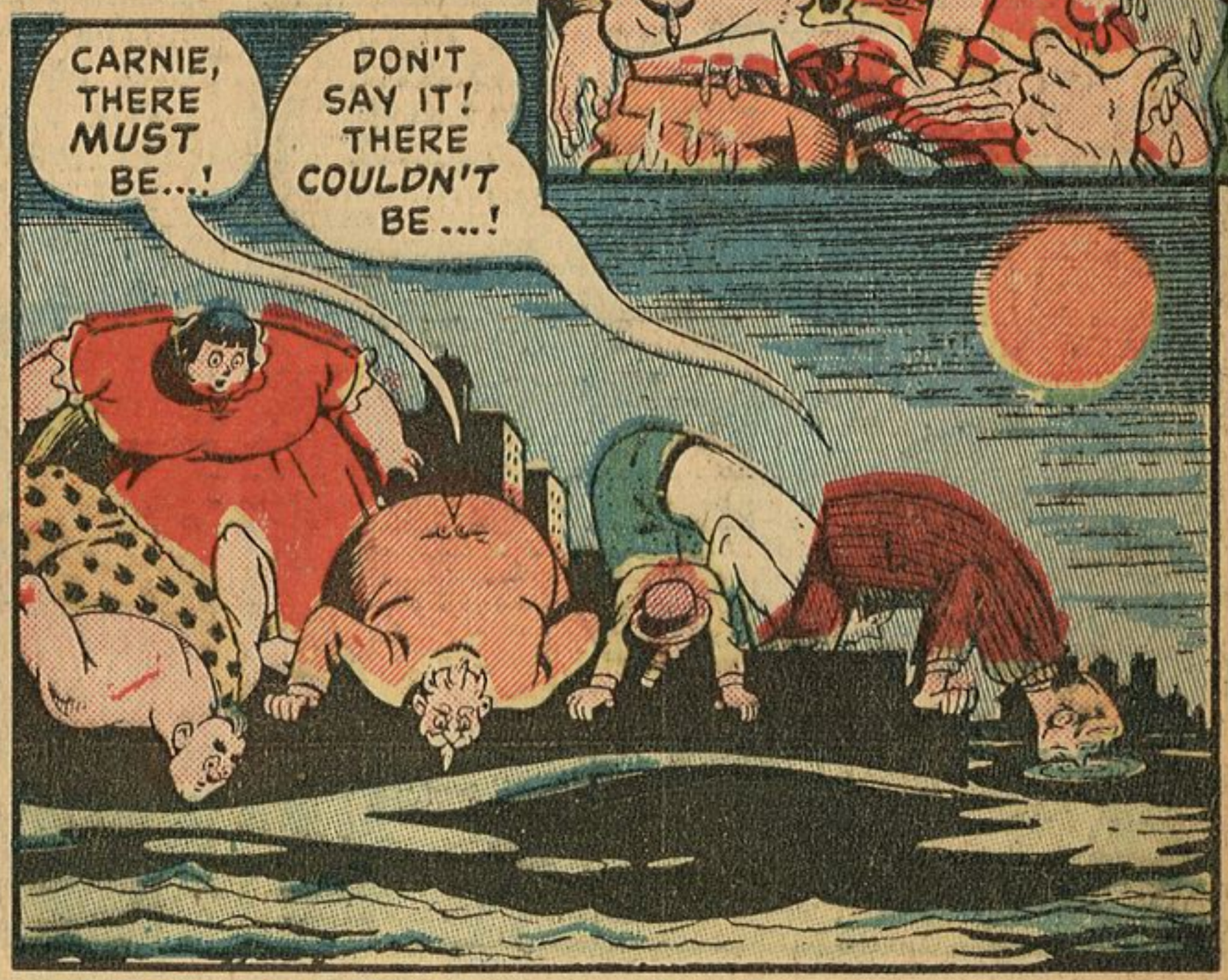

I THINK I'LL GO FISHING TOMORROW! MAYBE I CAN PULL IN A MAN!
TAKE IT EASY, COLONEL LANE! I'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN NO TIME!

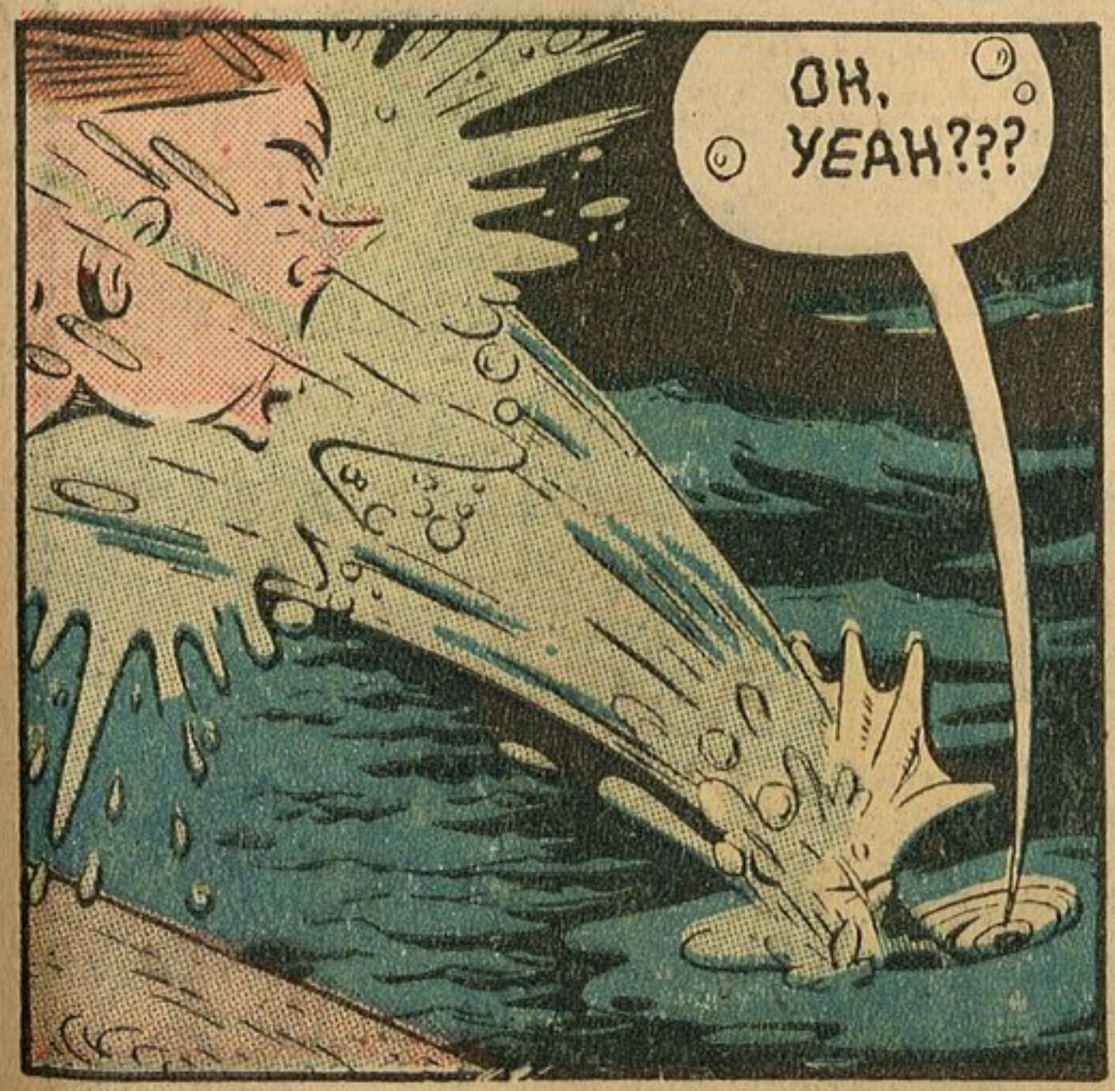
WHAT HAPPENED, COLONEL LANE? DID YOU SLIP OFF THE DOCK?
ER... I GUESS SO... BUT I'D SWEAR SOMEBODY PULLED ME OFF BY THE ANKLE! ODDEST FEELING!

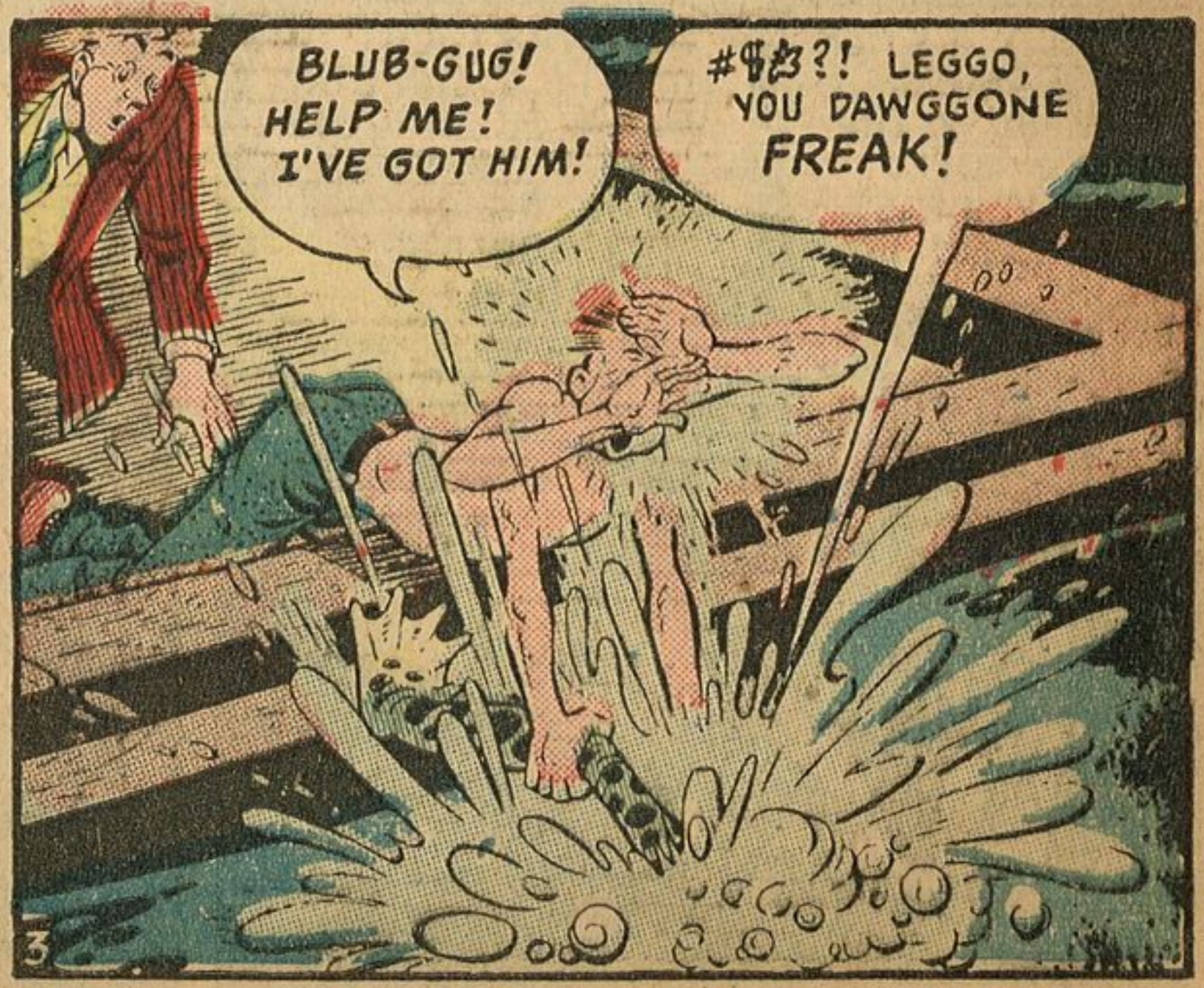

CARNIE, OLD MAN, YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
FORGET IT, COLONEL...ONLY NEXT TIME DON'T BOP ME IN THE JAW WHEN I'M ONLY PLAYING LIFE GUARD!

BOP YOU? HOW COULD I? I WAS BUSY TRYING TO PRY YOUR ARMS OFF MY NECK! YOU WERE CHOKING ME!
YOU'RE NUTS! I HAD YOU BY THE ANKLES WITH BOTH HANDS! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN CHOKING YOURSELF! NOBODY ELSE WAS DOWN THERE!

MY WALLET'S GONE TOO ...AND I KNOW I DIDN'T PICK MY OWN POCKET!
ULP! SO IS MINE! AND IT WAS BUTTONED IN SO IT COULDN'T FALL OUT!

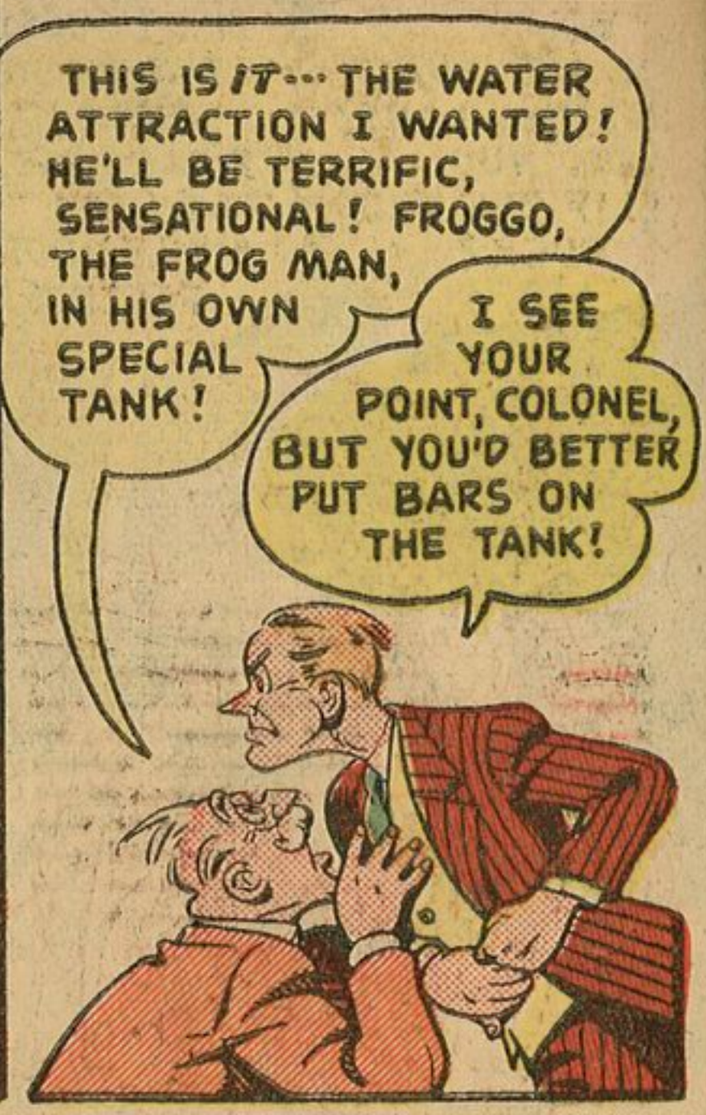

CARNIE, THERE MUST BE...!
DON'T SAY IT! THERE COULDN'T BE...!


OH, YEAH???

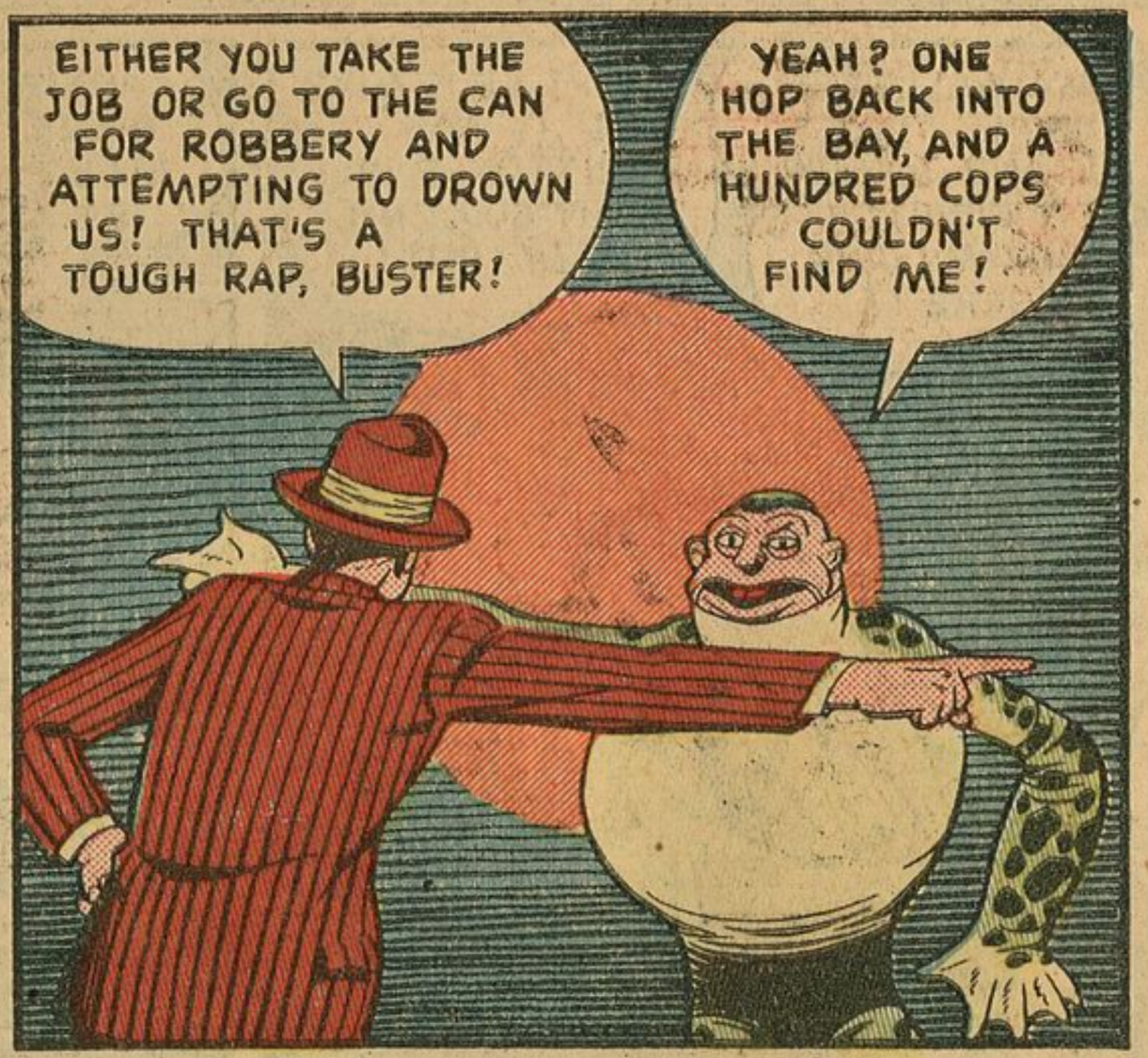

BLUB-GUG! HELP ME! I'VE GOT HIM!
#¶&?! LEGGO, YOU DAWGGONE FREAK!

EEEK!!
CARNIE... DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
YEP... OUR WALLETS!

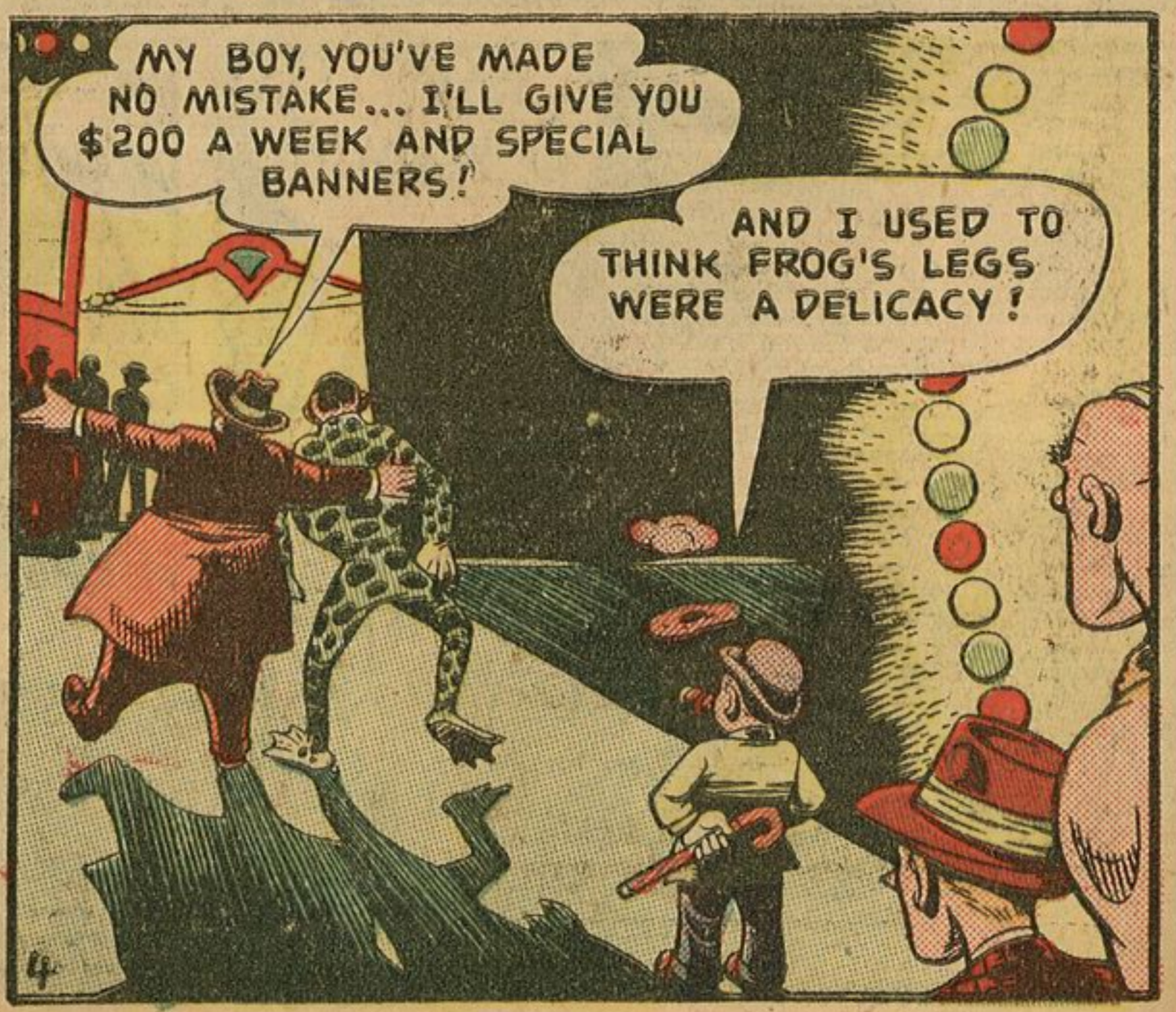
I'LL GIVE THAT POCKET-PICKING FLYCATCHER SOMETHING TO CROAK ABOUT!
NO, CARNIE ...WAIT!


THIS IS IT... THE WATER ATTRACTION I WANTED! HE'LL BE TERRIFIC, SENSATIONAL! FROGGO, THE FROG MAN, IN HIS OWN SPECIAL TANK!
I SEE YOUR POINT, COLONEL, BUT YOU'D BETTER PUT BARS ON THE TANK!

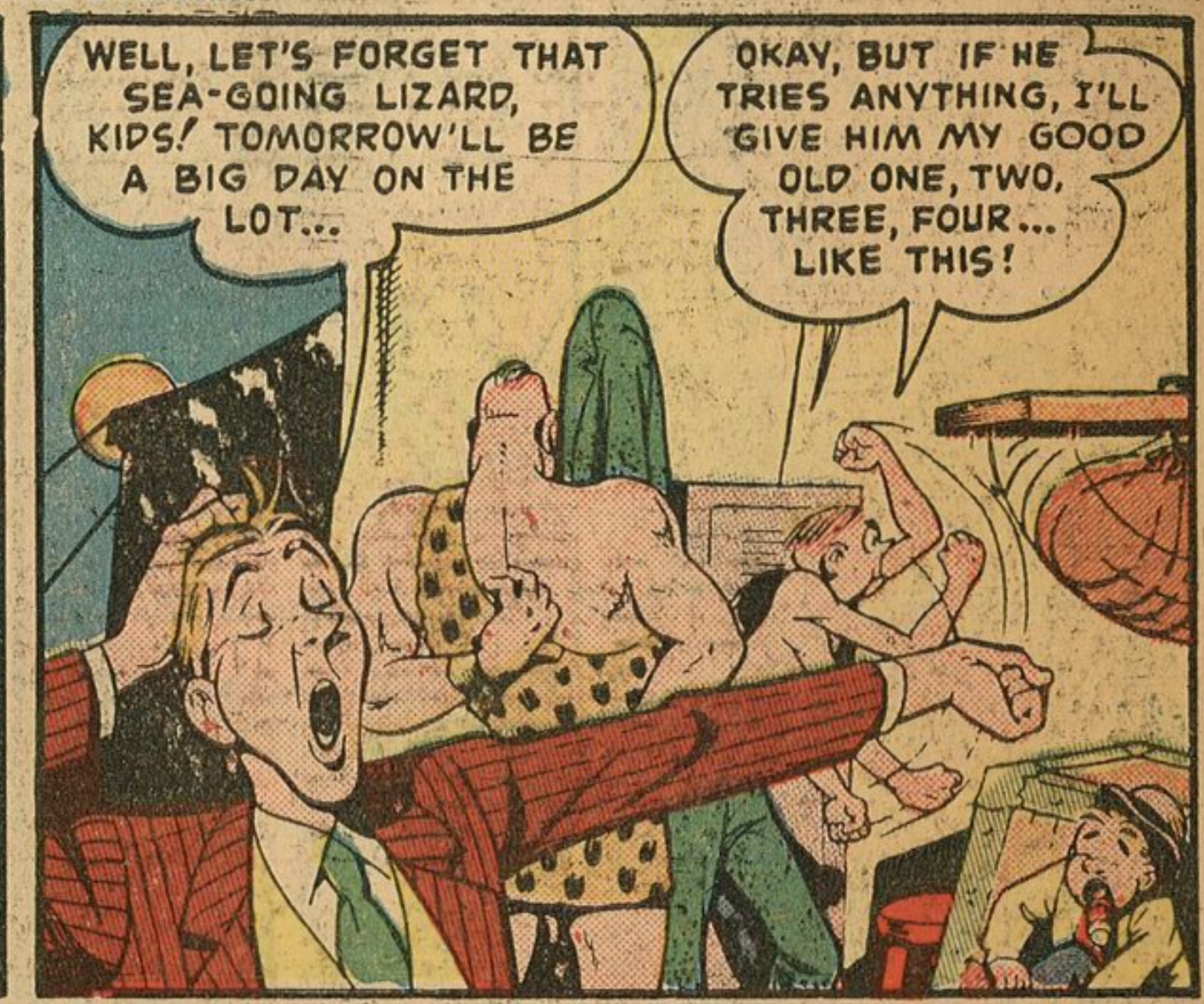
WHY DON'T YOU YUKS ASK ME IF I WANT TO JOIN YOUR MOTH-EATEN CIRCUS?
NOBODY'S ASKING YOU ANYTHING, BASS BAIT! WE'RE TELLING YOU!


EITHER YOU TAKE THE JOB OR GO TO THE CAN FOR ROBBERY AND ATTEMPTING TO DROWN US! THAT'S A TOUGH RAP, BUSTER!
YEAH? ONE HOP BACK INTO THE BAY, AND A HUNDRED COPS COULDN'T FIND ME!

NO, BUT A STICK OF DYNAMITE DUMPED IN THE WATER COULD FIND YOU FAST ENOUGH!
GRAWKK! CUT IT OUT! I CAN STAY UNDER 20 MINUTES BUT I CAN'T DODGE DYNAMITE! I'LL JOIN THE SHOW!


MY BOY, YOU'VE MADE NO MISTAKE... I'LL GIVE YOU $200 A WEEK AND SPECIAL BANNERS!
AND I USED TO THINK FROG'S LEGS WERE A DELICACY!

THAT FROGGO LOOKS LIKE A CROOK TO ME... I WOULDN'T TRUST HIM AS FAR AS I COULD TURN CARTWHEELS!
MY IDEA EXACTLY, LENA! WE'D BETTER ALL KEEP AN EYE ON THAT FUGITIVE FROM A FISHHOOK!


WELL, LET'S FORGET THAT SEA-GOING LIZARD, KIDS! TOMORROW'LL BE A BIG DAY ON THE LOT...
OKAY, BUT IF HE TRIES ANYTHING, I'LL GIVE HIM MY GOOD OLD ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR... LIKE THIS!

EEK!
WHA... ???
THAT WAS SHALI'S VOICE! COME ON!

HER TENT'S LIGHTED!
MAYBE HER PET PYTHON GOT INDIGESTION OR SOMETHING!

WHAT'S WRONG, SHALI?
TH-THAT, CARNIE! IT WAS SNOOPING AROUND MY TENT!

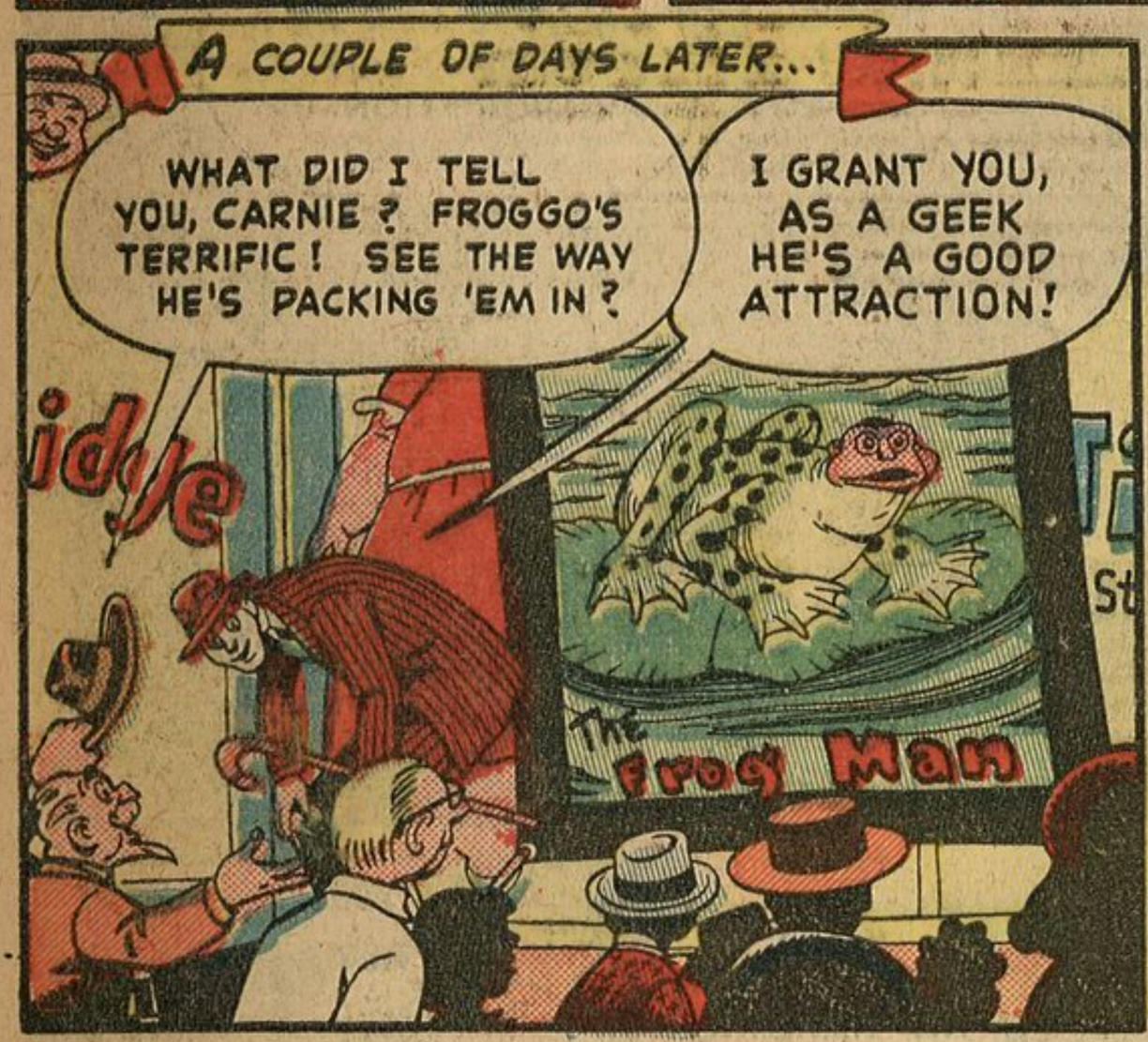
AW, SO THE DOLL LOOKS CUTE AND I TRY TO GET ACQUAINTED... WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY HANGING A SLUG ON YOUR JAW, SLINKY?

MOSTLY THIS!
HEY!
OOHMFF!

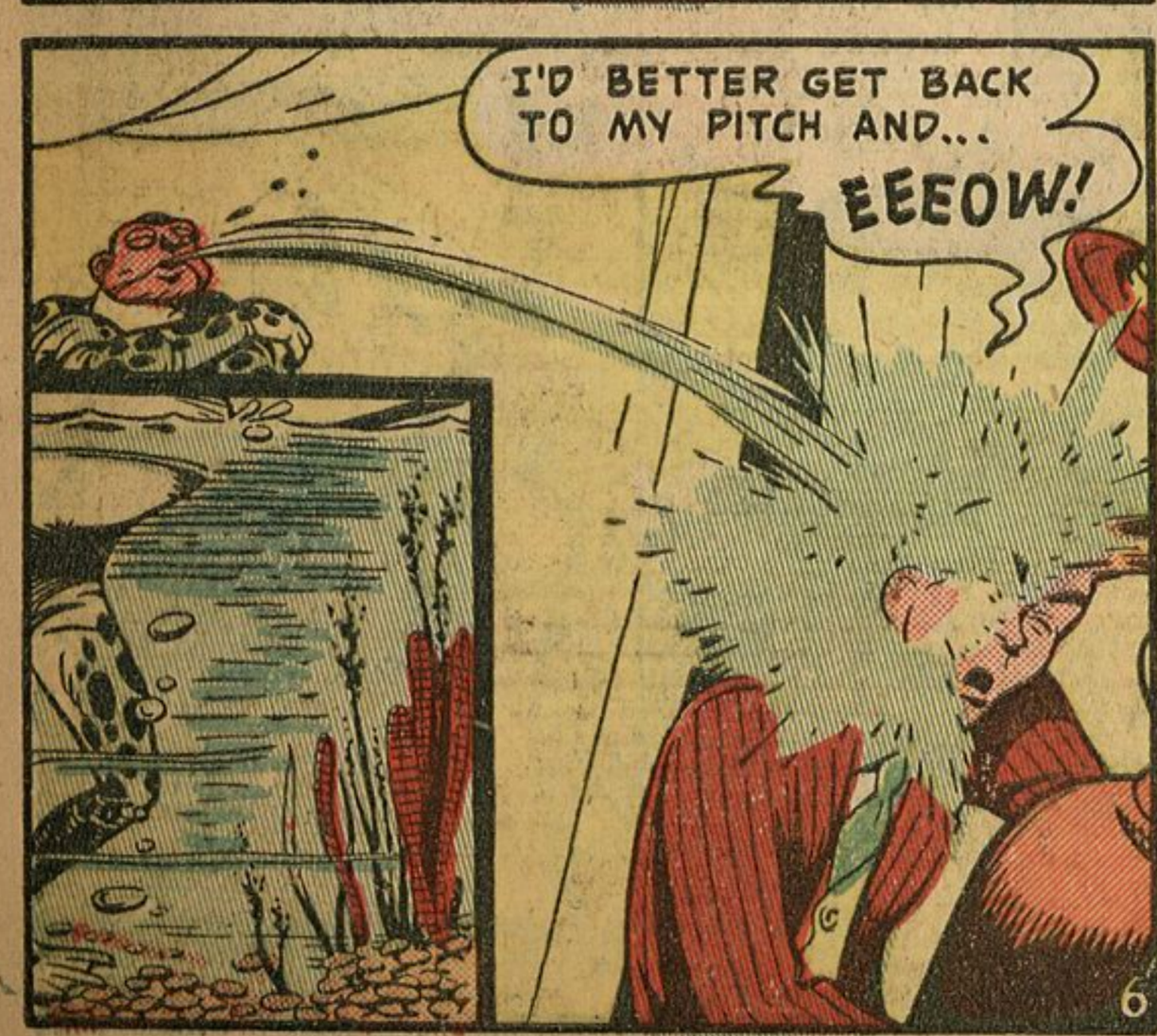
YOU CAN'T SLUG CARNIE AND GET AWAY WITH IT!
I'VE BEEN ITCHING TO DO THIS!

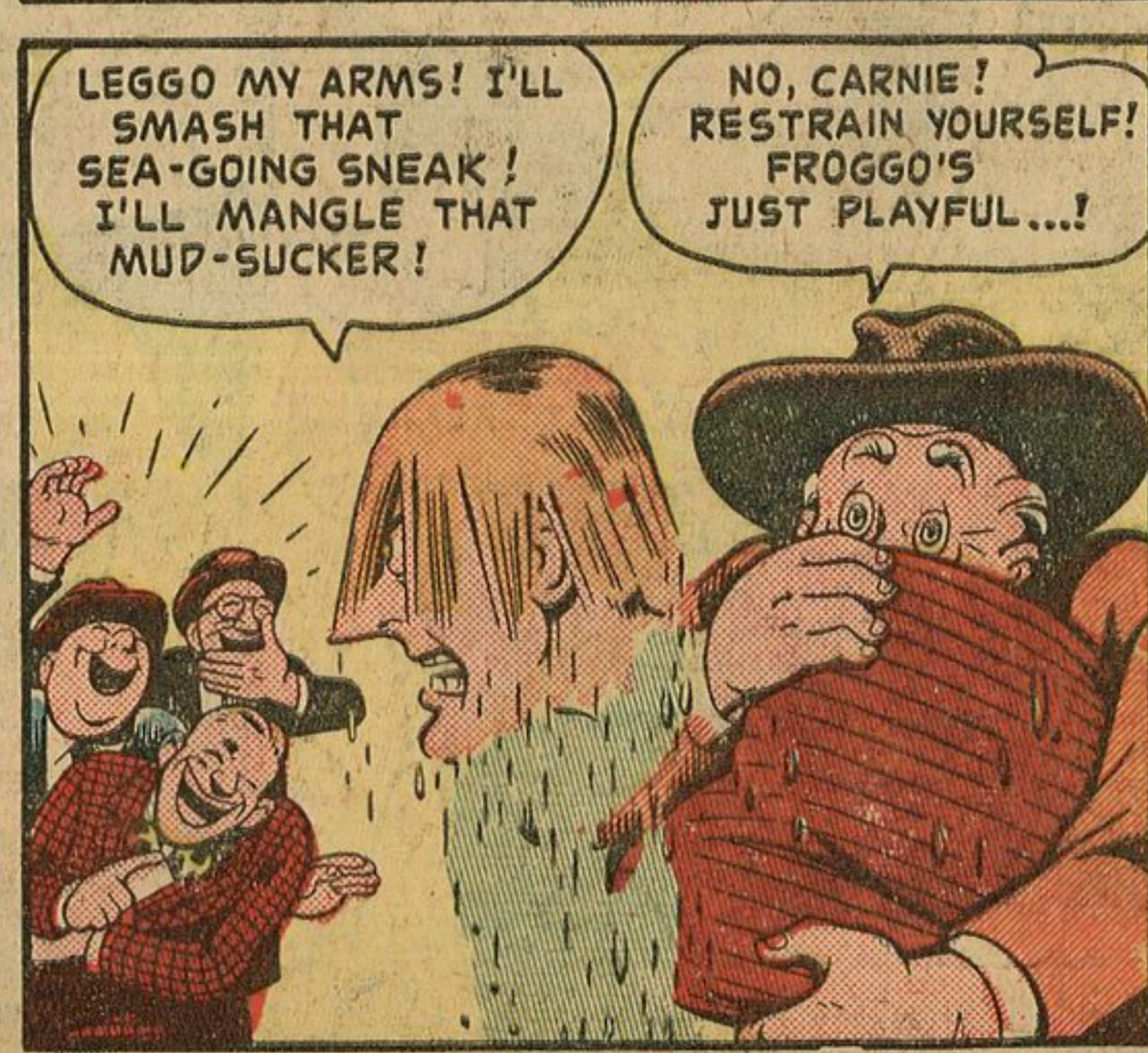
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU STUPES BUT IT'S MY BED-TIME!

'NIGHT, BOYS AND GIRLS!


A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER...
WHAT DID I TELL YOU, CARNIE? FROGGO'S TERRIFIC! SEE THE WAY HE'S PACKING 'EM IN?
I GRANT YOU, AS A GEEK HE'S A GOOD ATTRACTION!
The Frog Man

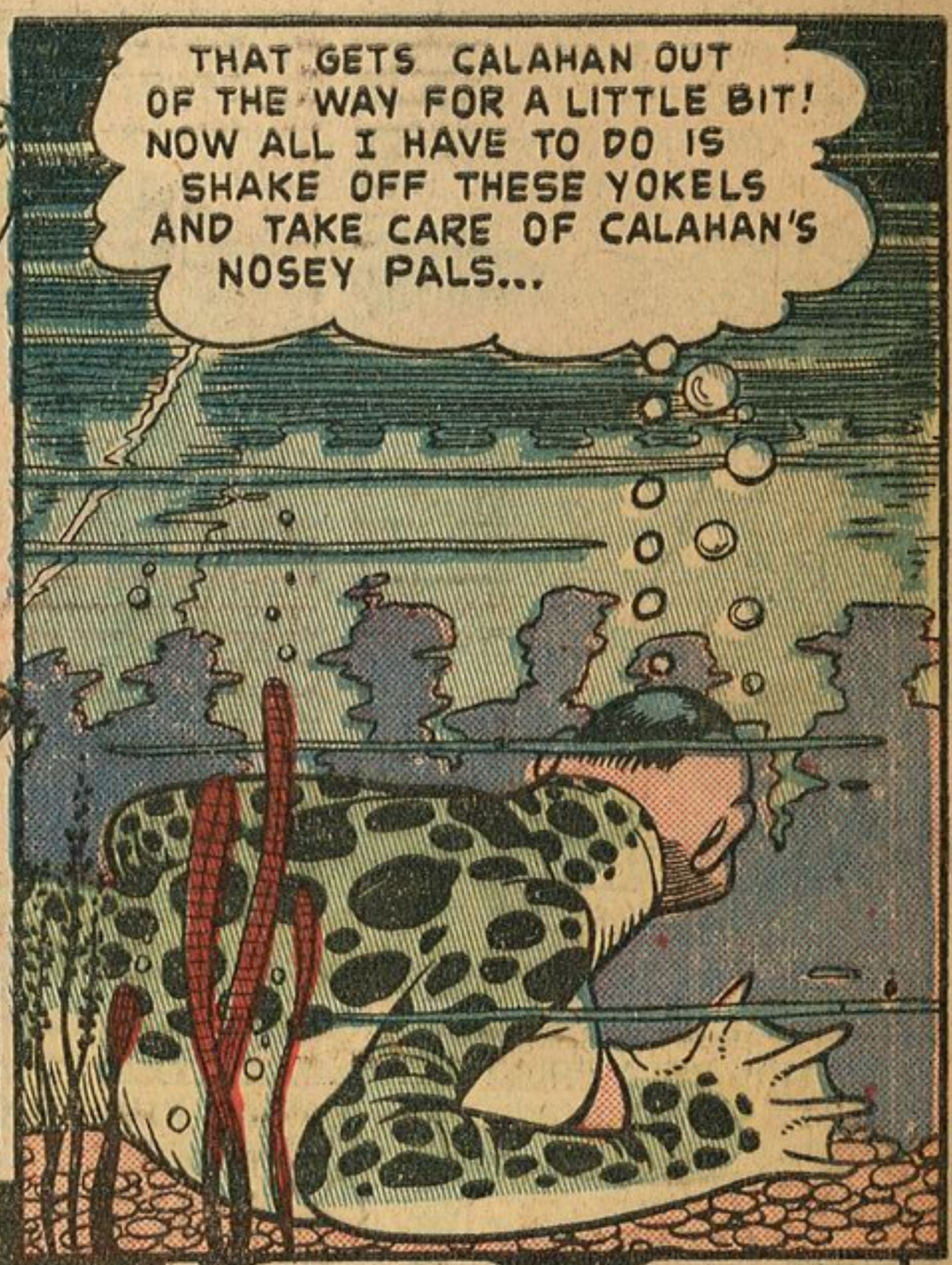
I WAS LUCKY TO PICK UP THAT OLD AQUARIUM TANK CHEAP... HE FEELS RIGHT AT HOME IN IT!
I THINK A MUD HOLE WOULD BE MORE HIS CLASS!

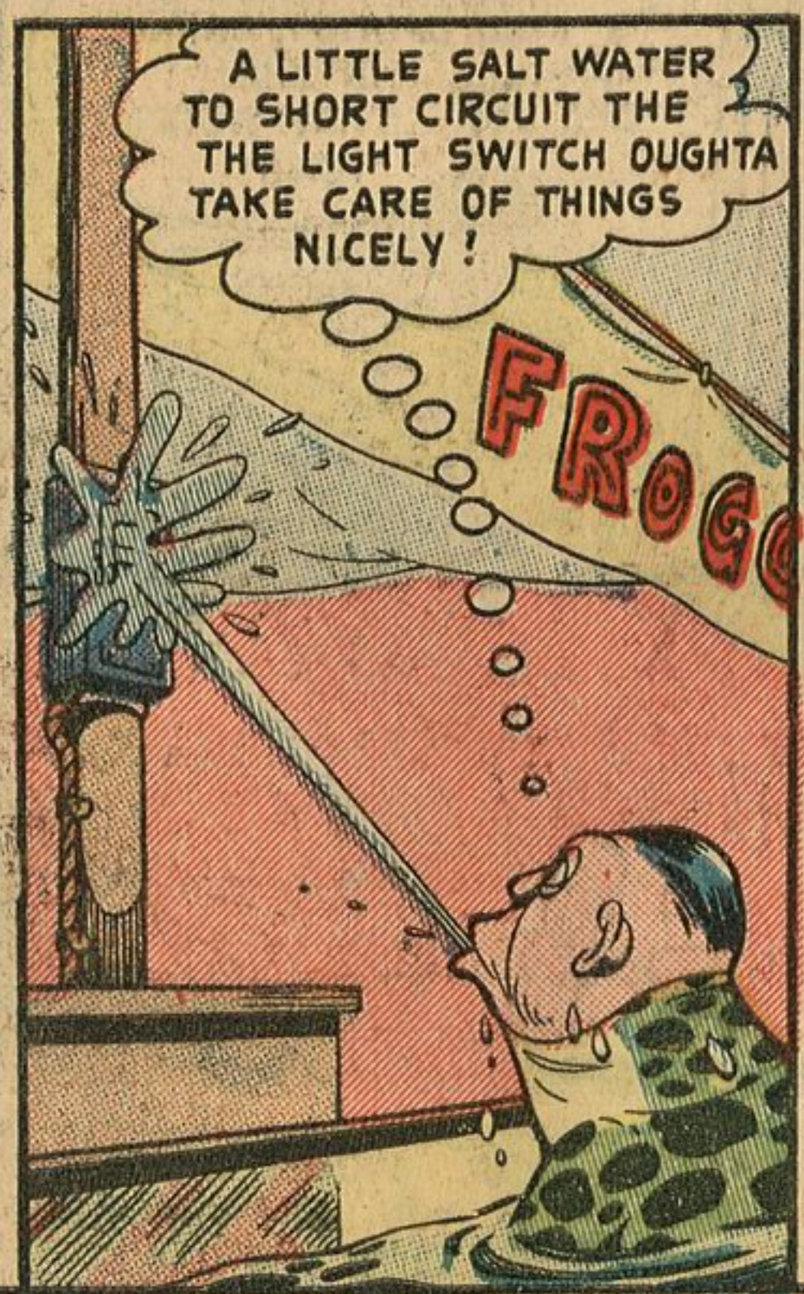

I'D BETTER GET BACK TO MY PITCH AND...
EEEOW!


LEGGO MY ARMS! I'LL SMASH THAT SEA-GOING SNEAK! I'LL MANGLE THAT MUD-SUCKER!
NO, CARNIE! RESTRAIN YOURSELF! FROGGO'S JUST PLAYFUL...!

PLAYFUL, IS HE? I'LL PLAY WITH HIM! I'LL TEACH HIM A LITTLE GAME CALLED "KNUCKLES MEET TEETH"!
NOW, CARNIE, JUST RELAX AND GET HOLD OF YOURSELF!

GO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES AND COOL OFF, MY BOY! I'VE GOT TO COLLECT THIS AFTERNOON'S RECEIPTS AND COUNT THEM!
OKAY! I'M A PATIENT MAN! MY CHANCE WILL COME!


THAT GETS CALAHAN OUT OF THE WAY FOR A LITTLE BIT! NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SHAKE OFF THESE YOKELS AND TAKE CARE OF CALAHAN'S NOSEY PALS...

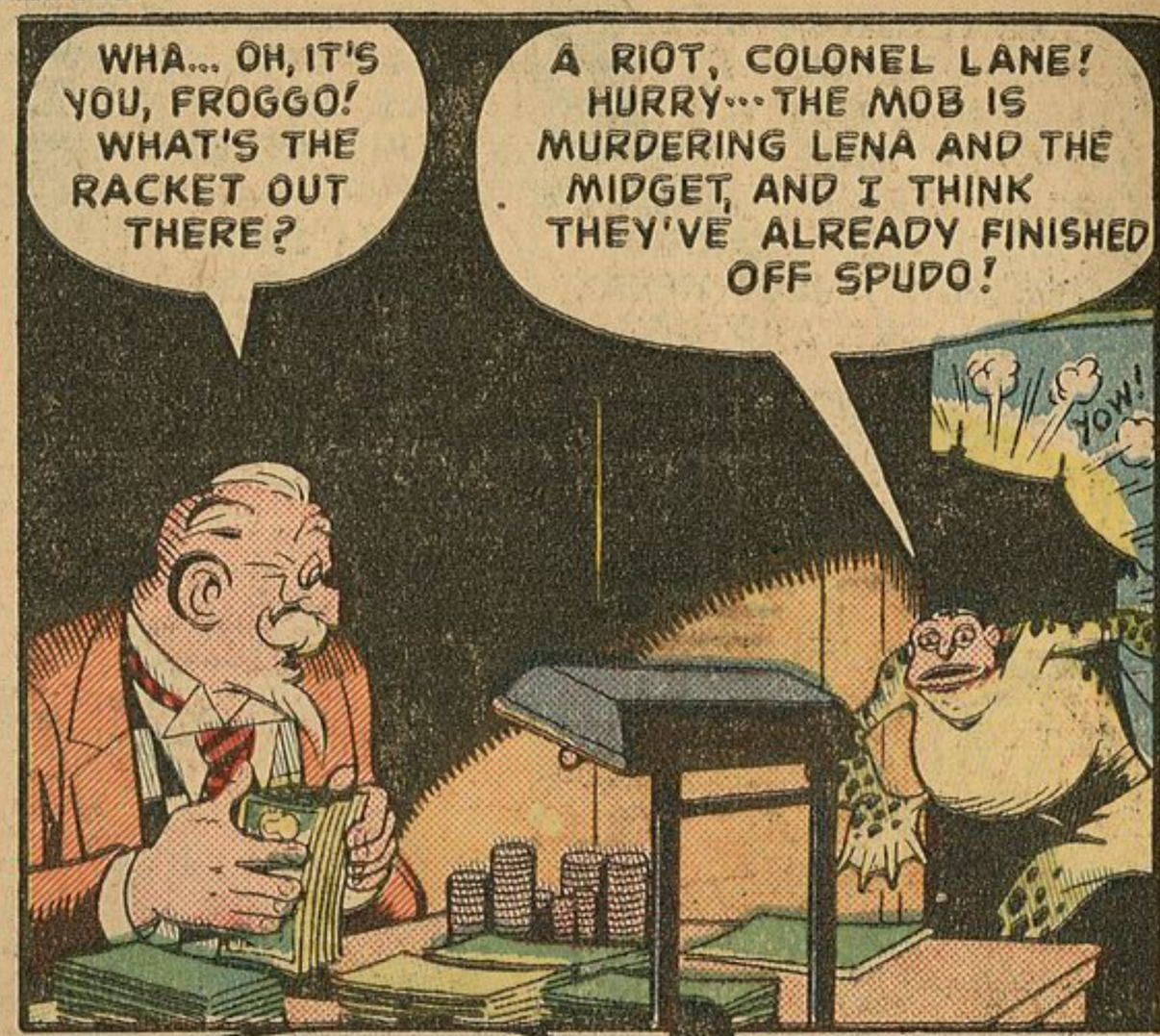

A LITTLE SALT WATER TO SHORT CIRCUIT THE THE LIGHT SWITCH OUGHTA TAKE CARE OF THINGS NICELY!
FROGG

HEY!
WHAT HAPPENED?
FIRE!
LEMME OUTTA HERE!

IT WAS FROGGO! I SAW HIM SHORT CIRCUIT THE LIGHTS!
HE'S UP TO SOMETHING ...WE'D BETTER FIND HIM!

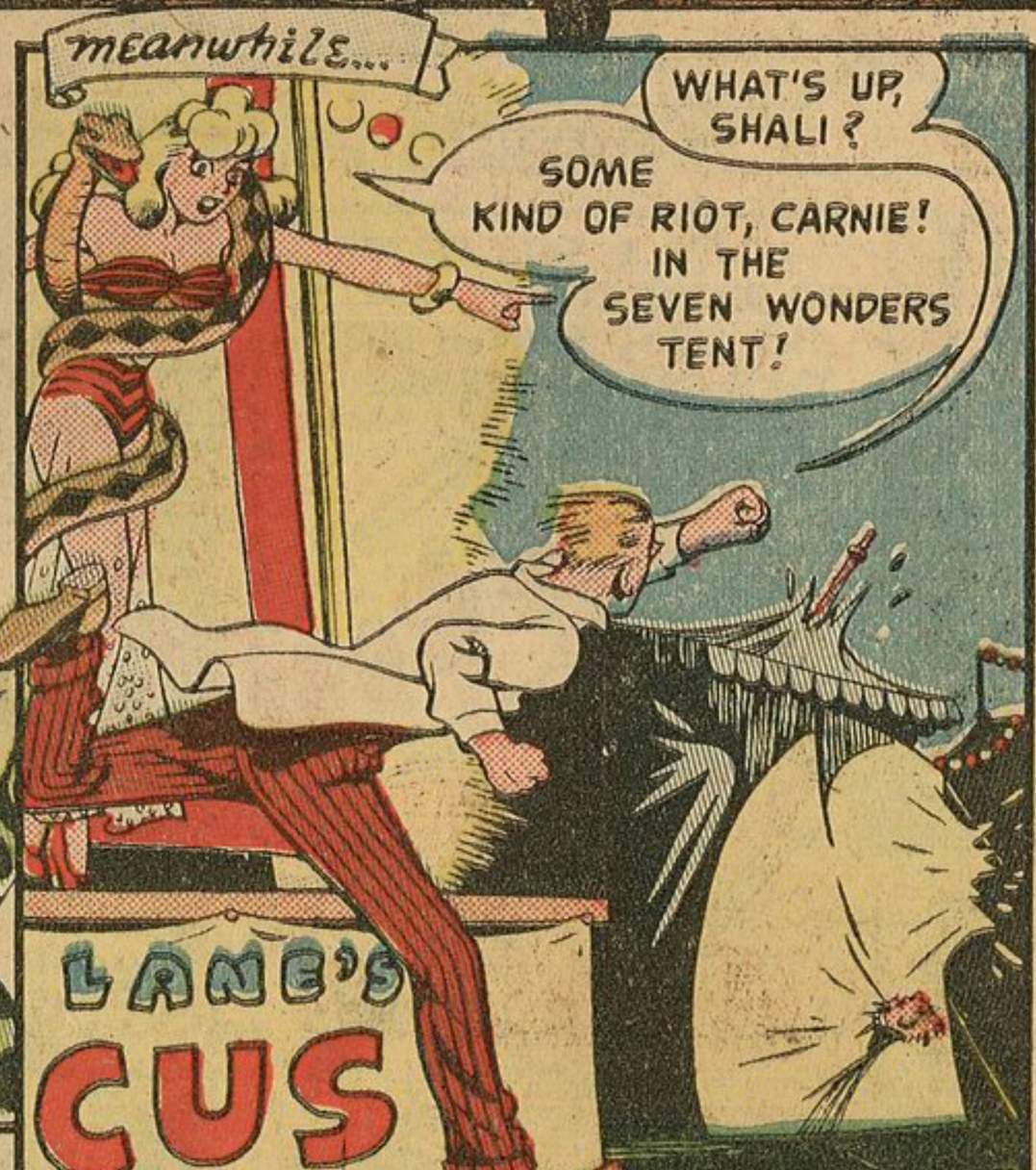
THIS WAY OUT, FOLKS! QUICK, BEFORE THE WHOOZIS ESCAPES!
Yiii!
HALP!
LEMME OUT!
HEY! GET OFF MY MMMPHFFF-BLIFFF!

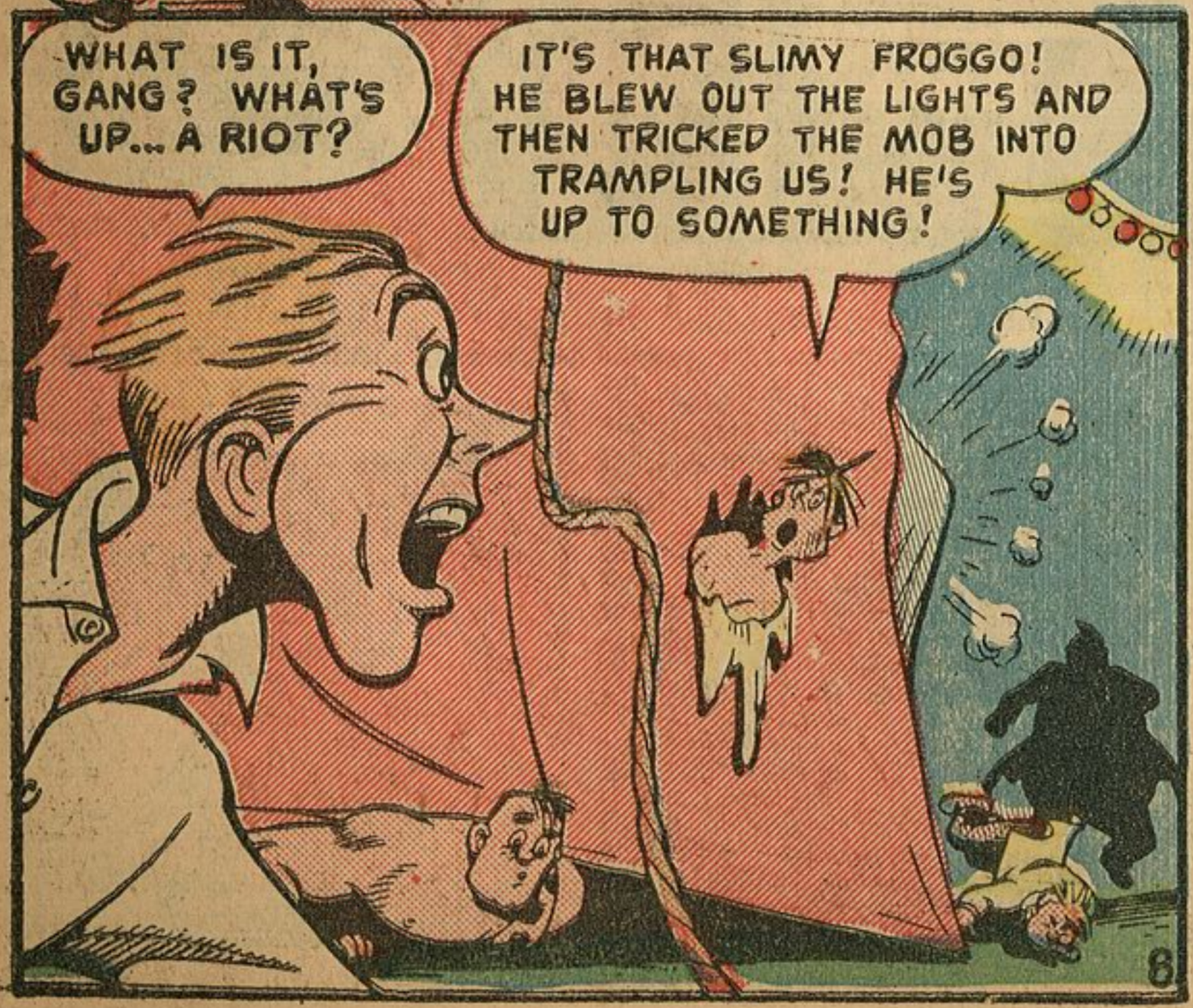
THAT TAKES CARE OF THEM FOR THE MOMENT! NOW TO PUT THE SNATCH ON THE DAY'S CASH AND GET BACK TO MY HIDEOUT!


WHA... OH, IT'S YOU, FROGGO! WHAT'S THE RACKET OUT THERE?
A RIOT, COLONEL LANE! HURRY... THE MOB IS MURDERING LENA AND THE MIDGET, AND I THINK THEY'VE ALREADY FINISHED OFF SPUDO!
YOW!

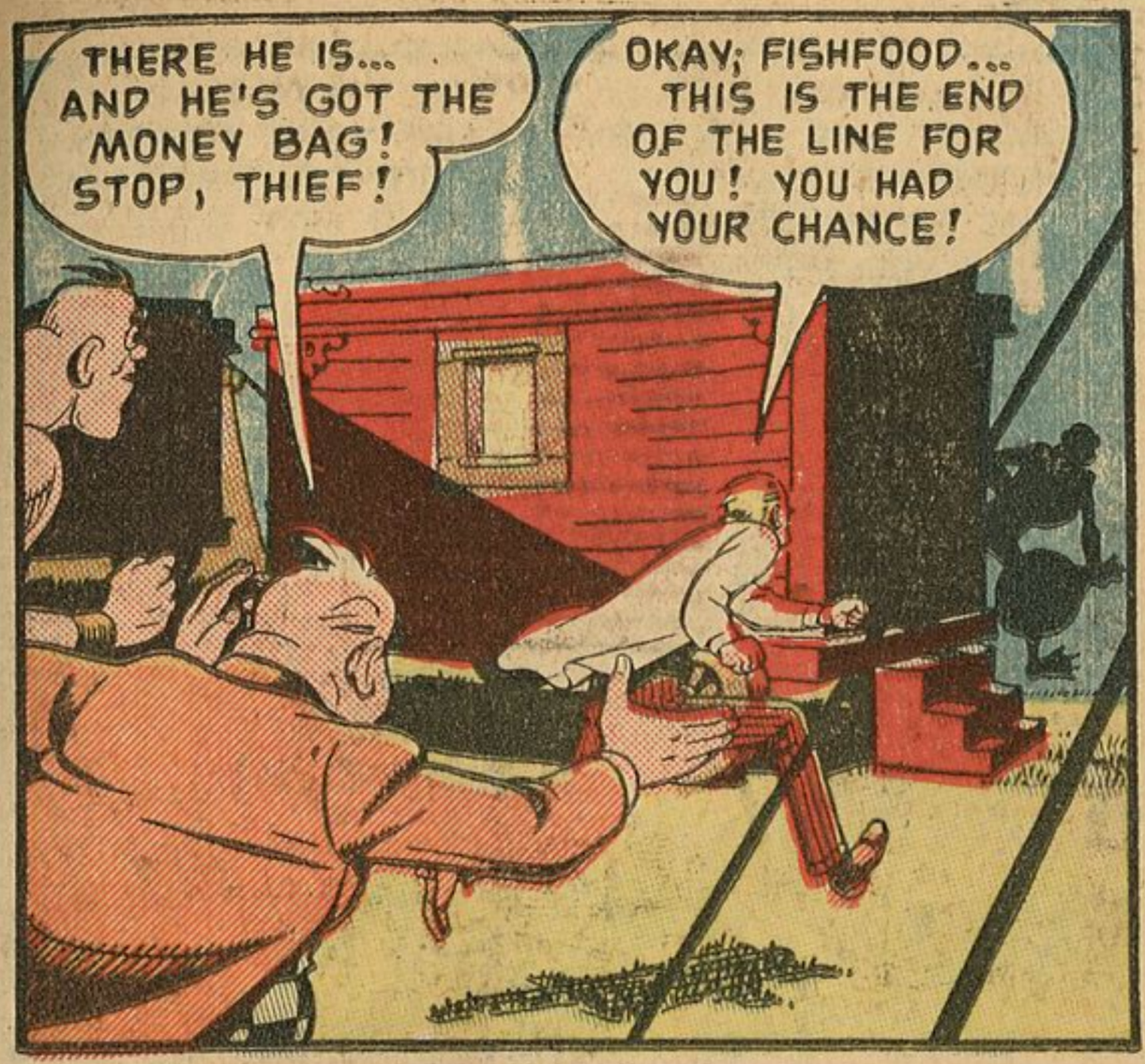
OH, THIS IS AWFUL! CAN'T SOMEBODY STOP THEM?
YOU CAN IF YOU HURRY! I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THE WAGON HERE!

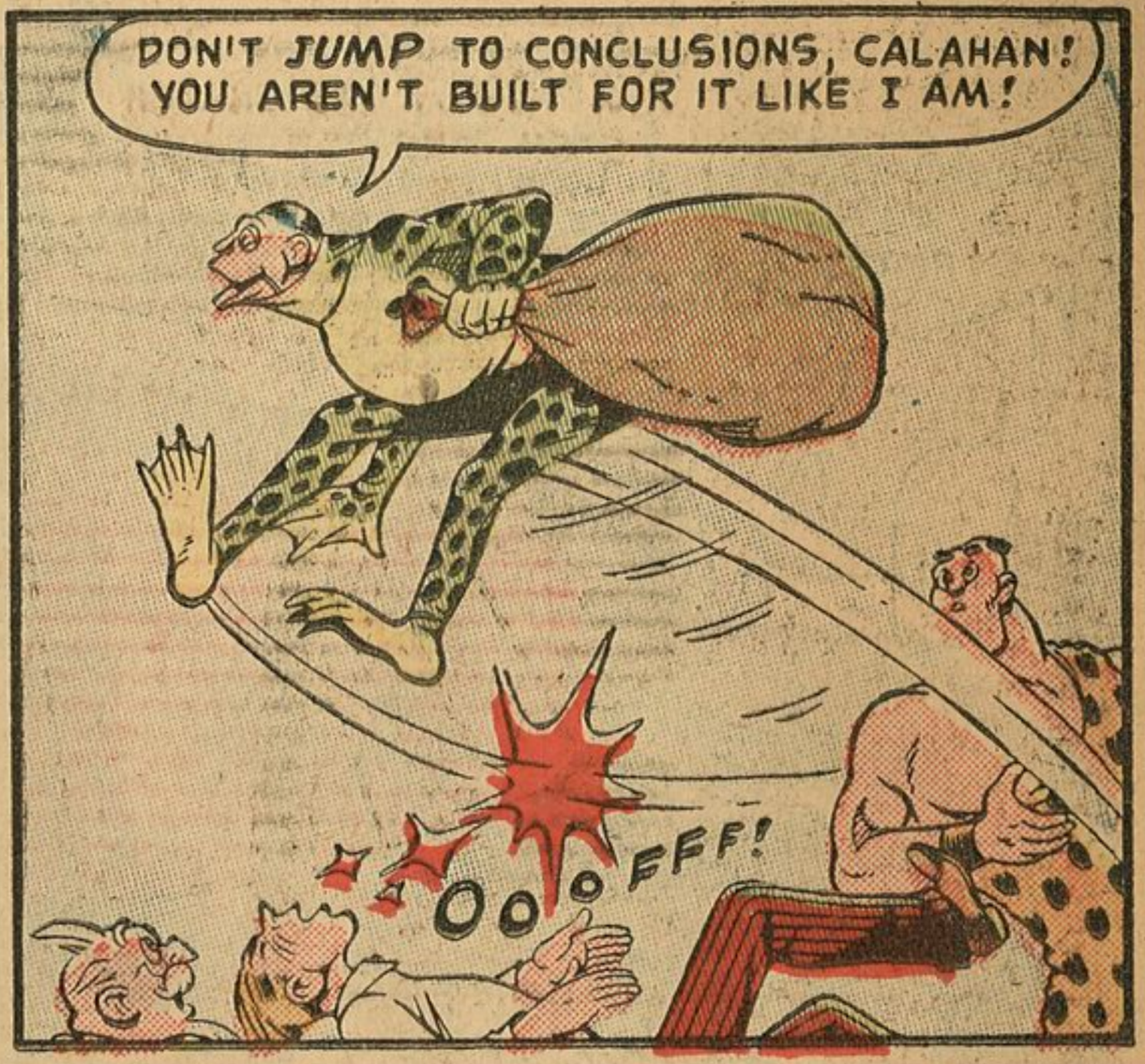
AND THAT TAKES CARE OF HIM... MMM, NOT A BAD HAUL FOR THE TIME I PUT IN SETTING IT UP!

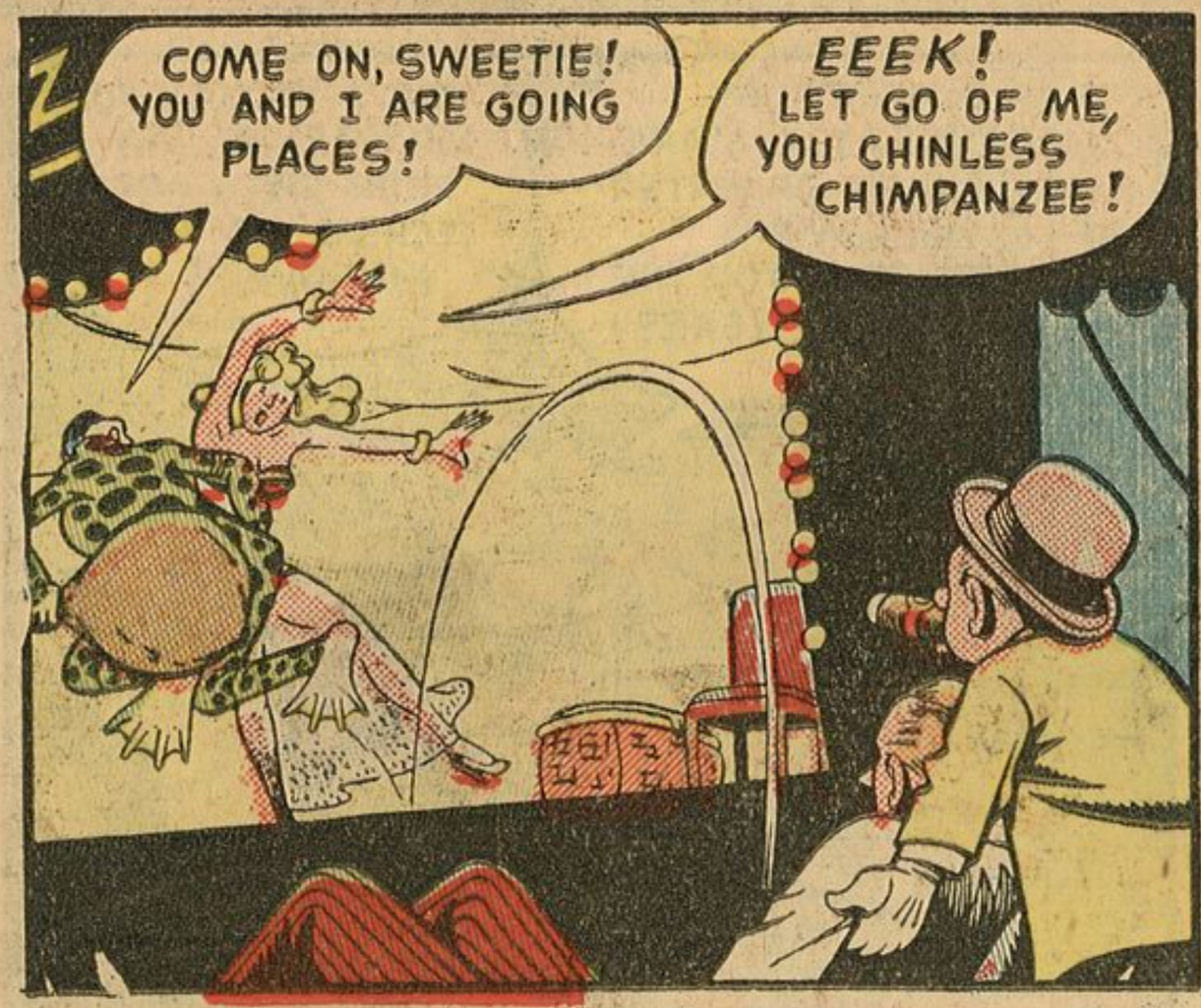

meanwhile...
WHAT'S UP, SHALI?
SOME KIND OF RIOT, CARNIE! IN THE SEVEN WONDERS TENT!
LANE'S
CUS

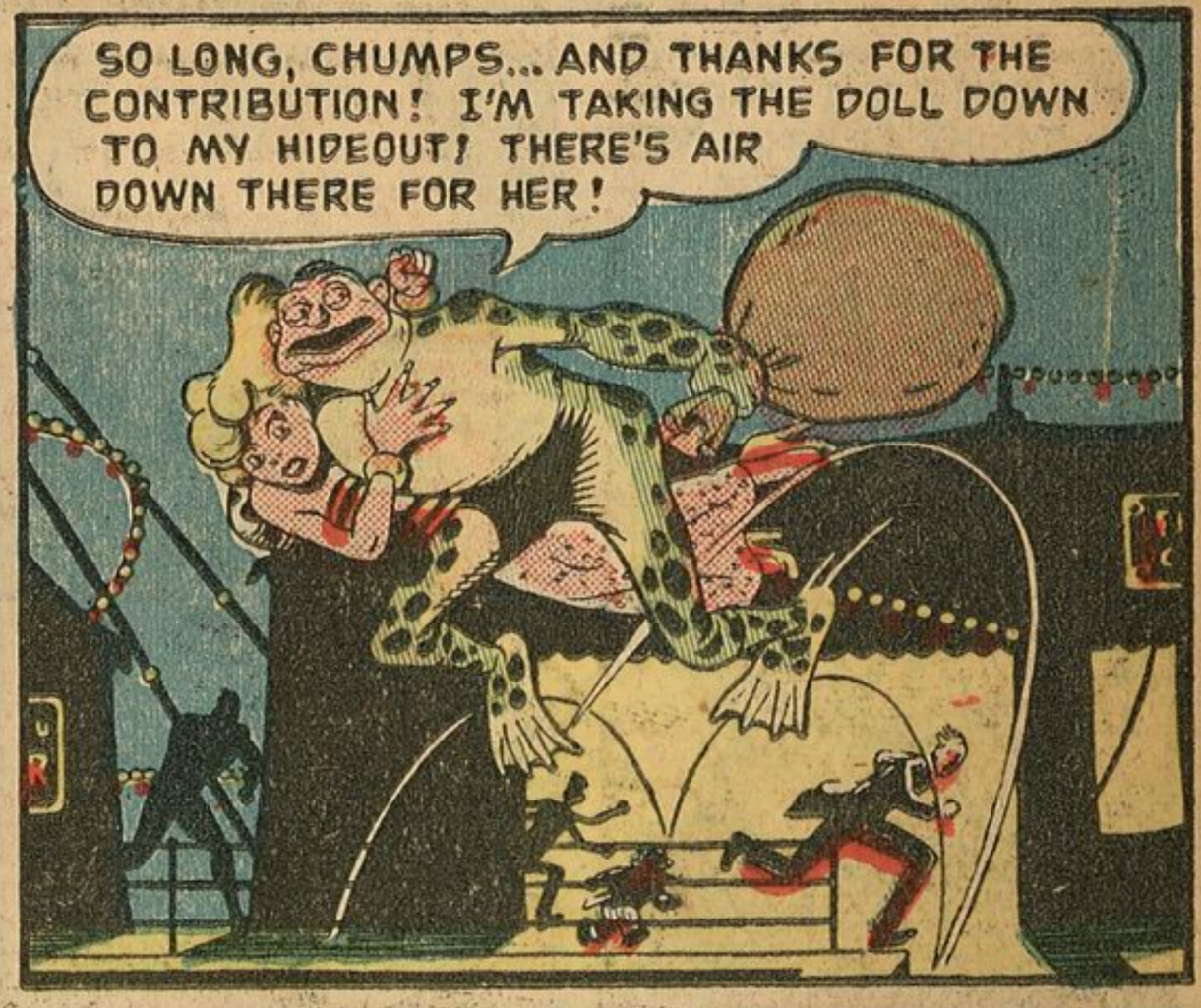

WHAT IS IT, GANG? WHAT'S UP... A RIOT?
IT'S THAT SLIMY FROGGO! HE BLEW OUT THE LIGHTS AND THEN TRICKED THE MOB INTO TRAMPLING US! HE'S UP TO SOMETHING!

WH-WHY, FROGGO SAID YOU WERE DEAD, SPUDO! HE'S GUARDING THE WAGON WHILE I CAME TO STOP THE RIOT!
WOW! YOU MEAN YOU LEFT HIM ALONE WITH THE DAY'S CASH RECEIPTS? NOW I SEE IT ALL!


THERE HE IS... AND HE'S GOT THE MONEY BAG! STOP, THIEF!
OKAY; FISHFOOD... THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE FOR YOU! YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE!


DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, CALAHAN! YOU AREN'T BUILT FOR IT LIKE I AM!
OOOFFF!

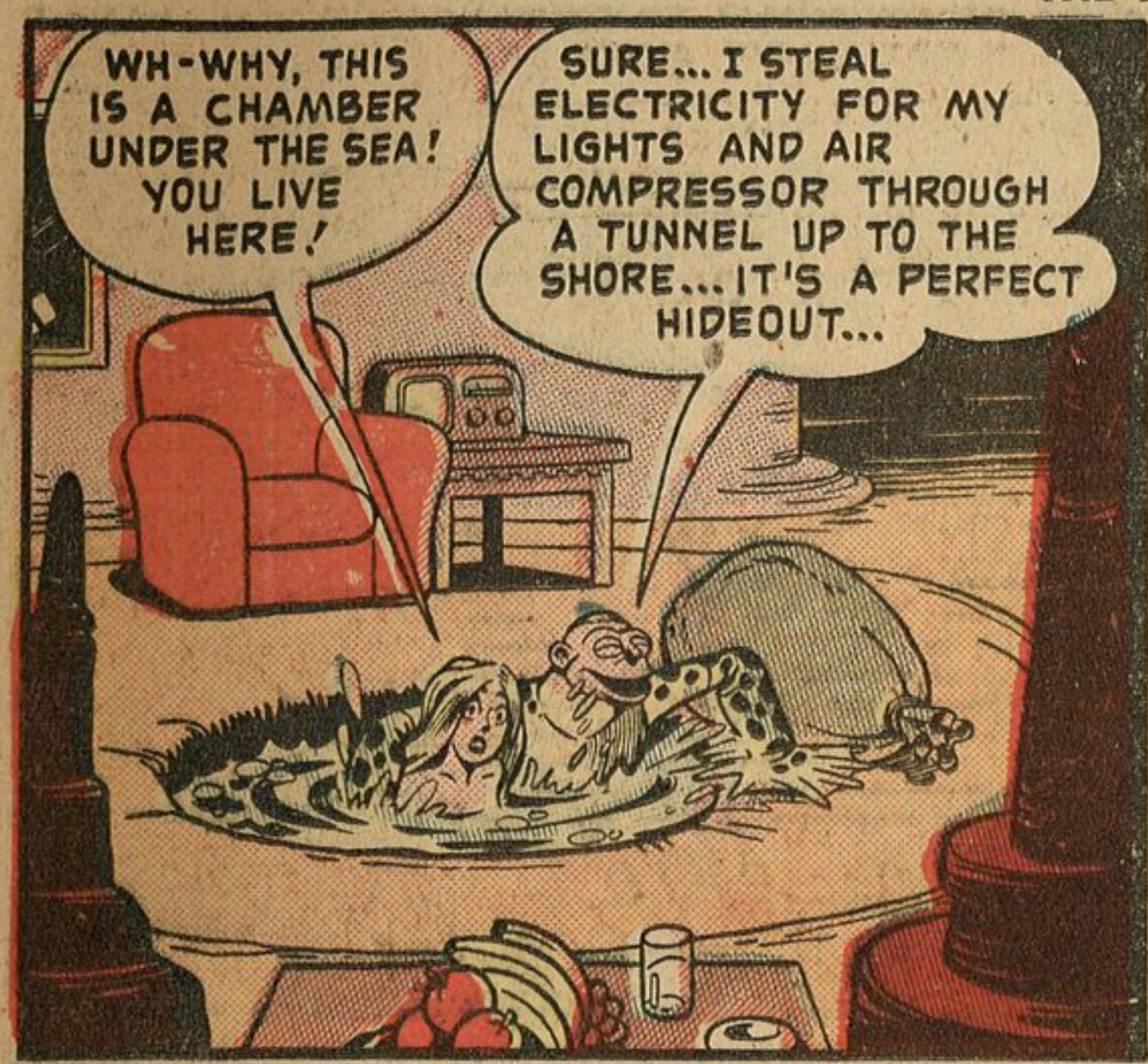

COME ON, SWEETIE! YOU AND I ARE GOING PLACES!
EEEK! LET GO OF ME, YOU CHINLESS CHIMPANZEE!

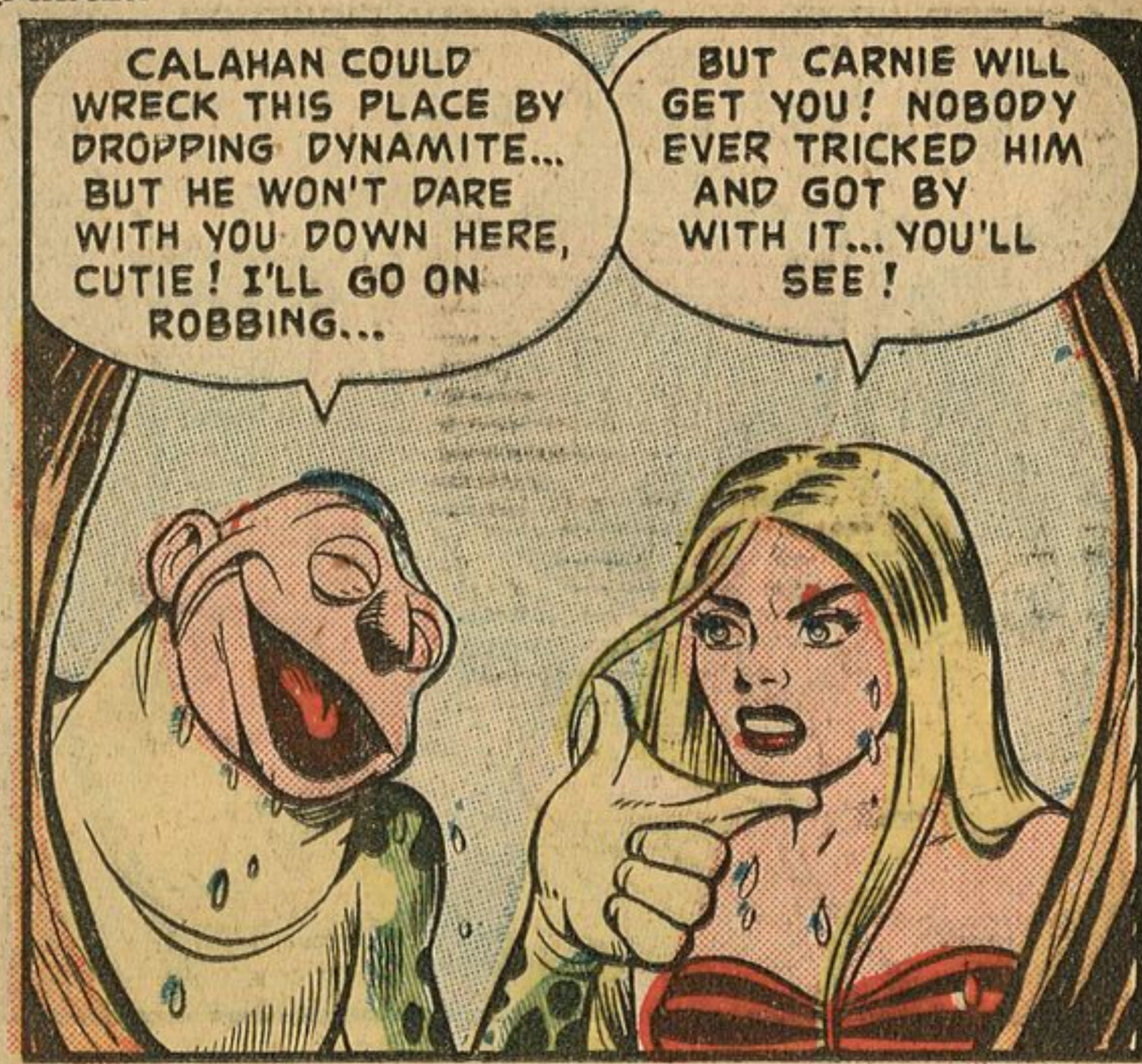

SO LONG, CHUMPS... AND THANKS FOR THE CONTRIBUTION! I'M TAKING THE DOLL DOWN TO MY HIDEOUT! THERE'S AIR DOWN THERE FOR HER!

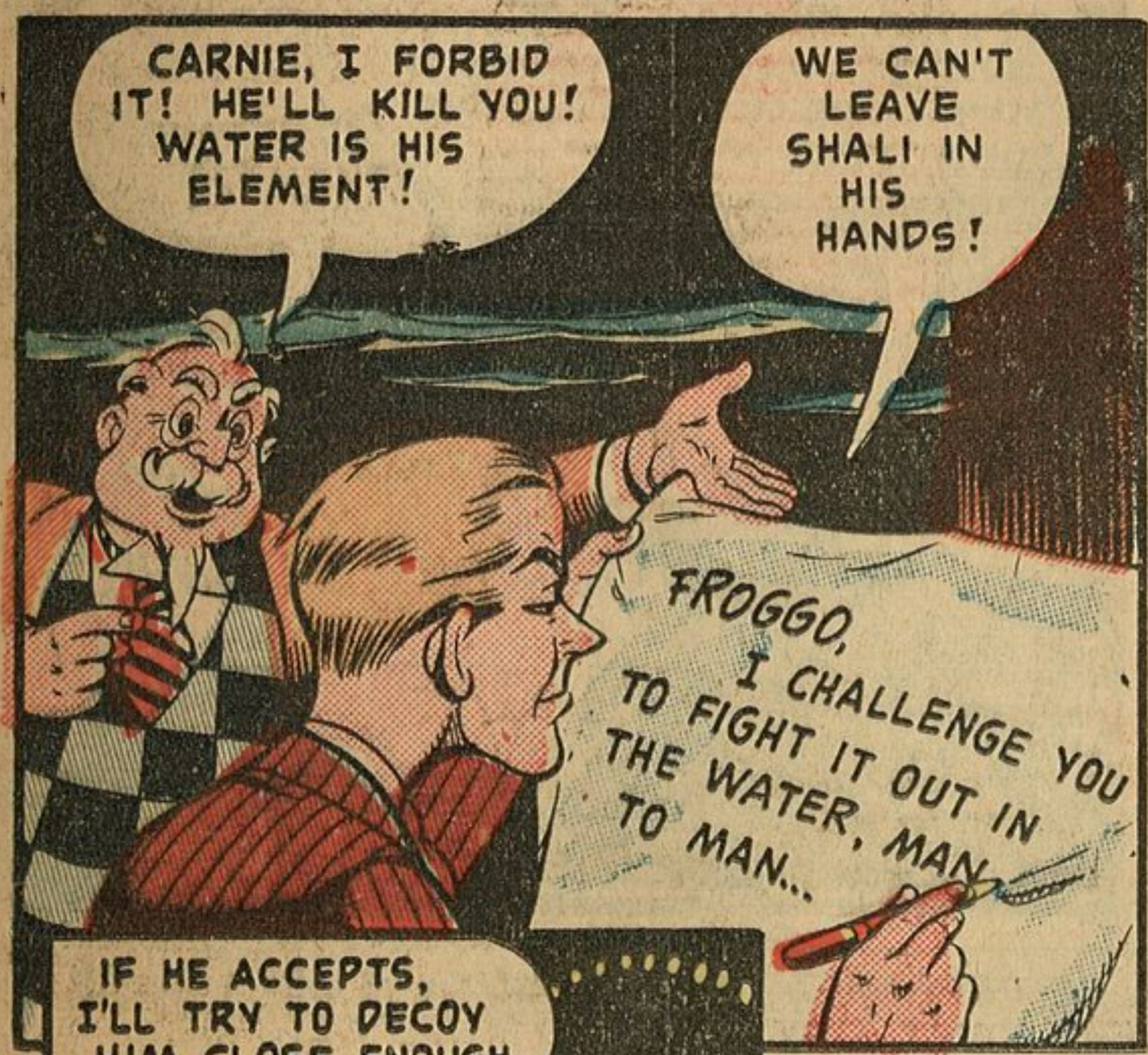
BUT DON'T TRY ANY SMART IDEAS LIKE TOSSING DYNAMITE IN, OR YOUR GIRL FRIEND WON'T ENJOY HER VISIT!
STOP HIM! DO SOMETHING! GET A GUN! CALL THE POLICE! CALL A SUBMARINE!

SHALI'LL BE DROWNED, CARNIE! SHE CAN'T STAY UNDER WATER LIKE THAT...
I THINK SHE'S SAFE NOW, TINY! HE MUST HAVE A HIDEOUT ABOVE THE WATER LINE...HE HAS TO HAVE AIR OCCASIONALLY, TOO...

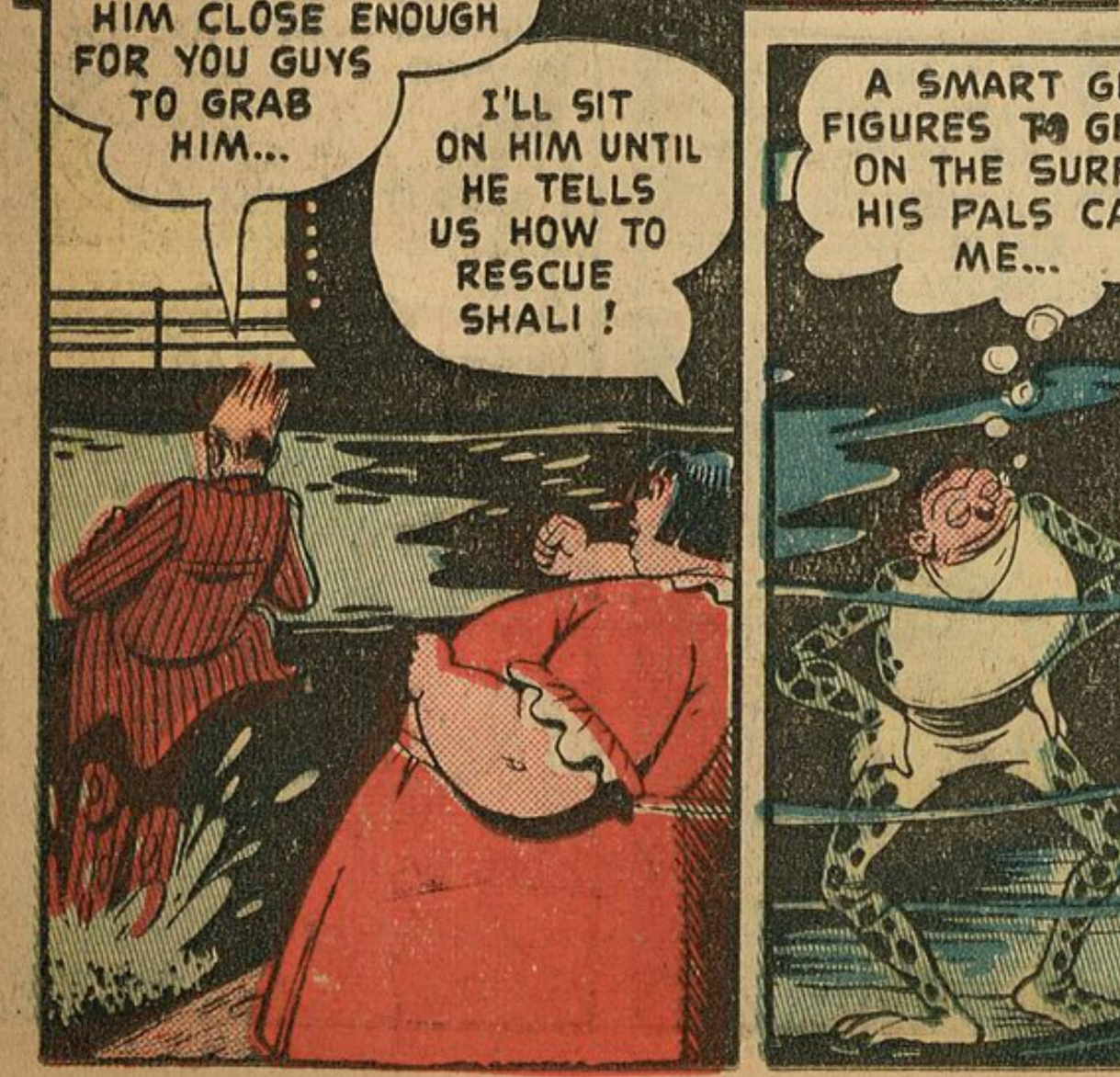
BUT WE'VE GOT TO FIND IT! SPUDO GET THAT PUNCHING BAG YOU USE IN YOUR BALL PITCH... I NEED IT! AND MY COAT AND VEST!
S-SURE, CARNIE... BUT I'D RATHER WORK OUT ON FROGGO'S HEAD!


WH-WHY, THIS IS A CHAMBER UNDER THE SEA! YOU LIVE HERE!
SURE... I STEAL ELECTRICITY FOR MY LIGHTS AND AIR COMPRESSOR THROUGH A TUNNEL UP TO THE SHORE... IT'S A PERFECT HIDEOUT...


CALAHAN COULD WRECK THIS PLACE BY DROPPING DYNAMITE... BUT HE WON'T DARE WITH YOU DOWN HERE, CUTIE! I'LL GO ON ROBBING...
BUT CARNIE WILL GET YOU! NOBODY EVER TRICKED HIM AND GOT BY WITH IT... YOU'LL SEE!


CARNIE, I FORBID IT! HE'LL KILL YOU! WATER IS HIS ELEMENT!
WE CAN'T LEAVE SHALI IN HIS HANDS!
FROGGO, I CHALLENGE YOU TO FIGHT IT OUT IN THE WATER, MAN TO MAN...

IF HE ACCEPTS MY CHALLENGE, I'LL MAKE HIM SO SICK OF WATER HE'LL WELCOME A NICE DRY CELL FOR THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS!
SAVE ENOUGH FOR ME, CARNIE... MY FOUR FISTS ARE ITCHING TO WORK HIM OVER!


IF HE ACCEPTS, I'LL TRY TO DECOY HIM CLOSE ENOUGH FOR YOU GUYS TO GRAB HIM...
I'LL SIT ON HIM UNTIL HE TELLS US HOW TO RESCUE SHALI!

A SMART GUY, EH? HE FIGURES TO GET ME FIGHTING ON THE SURFACE WHERE HIS PALS CAN GRAB ME...

I WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY! I'VE GOT A FEW TRICKS OF MY OWN!

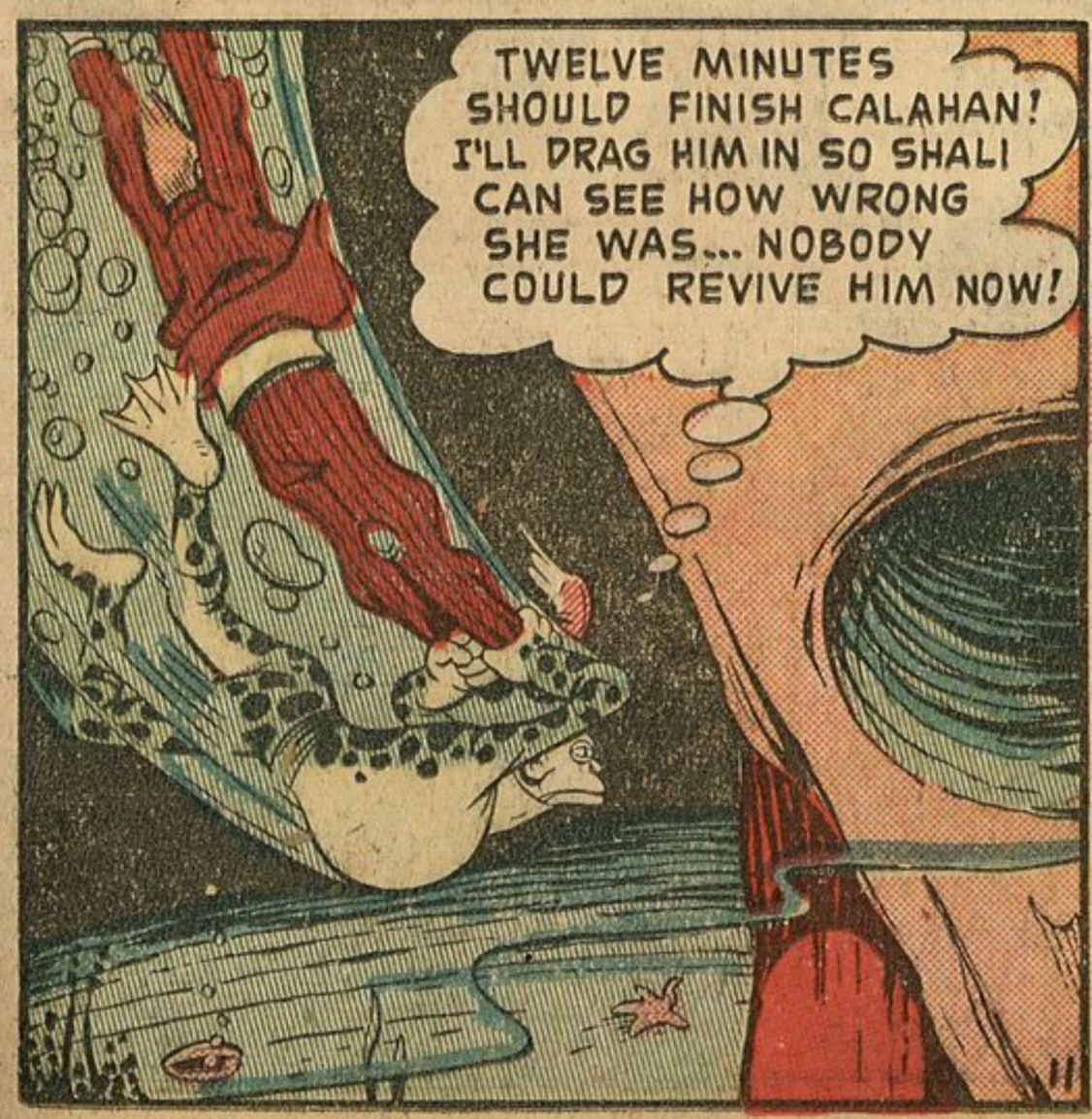
I'LL FIGHT YOU, CALAHAN... BUT DOWN WHERE YOUR PALS CAN'T HELP YOU!

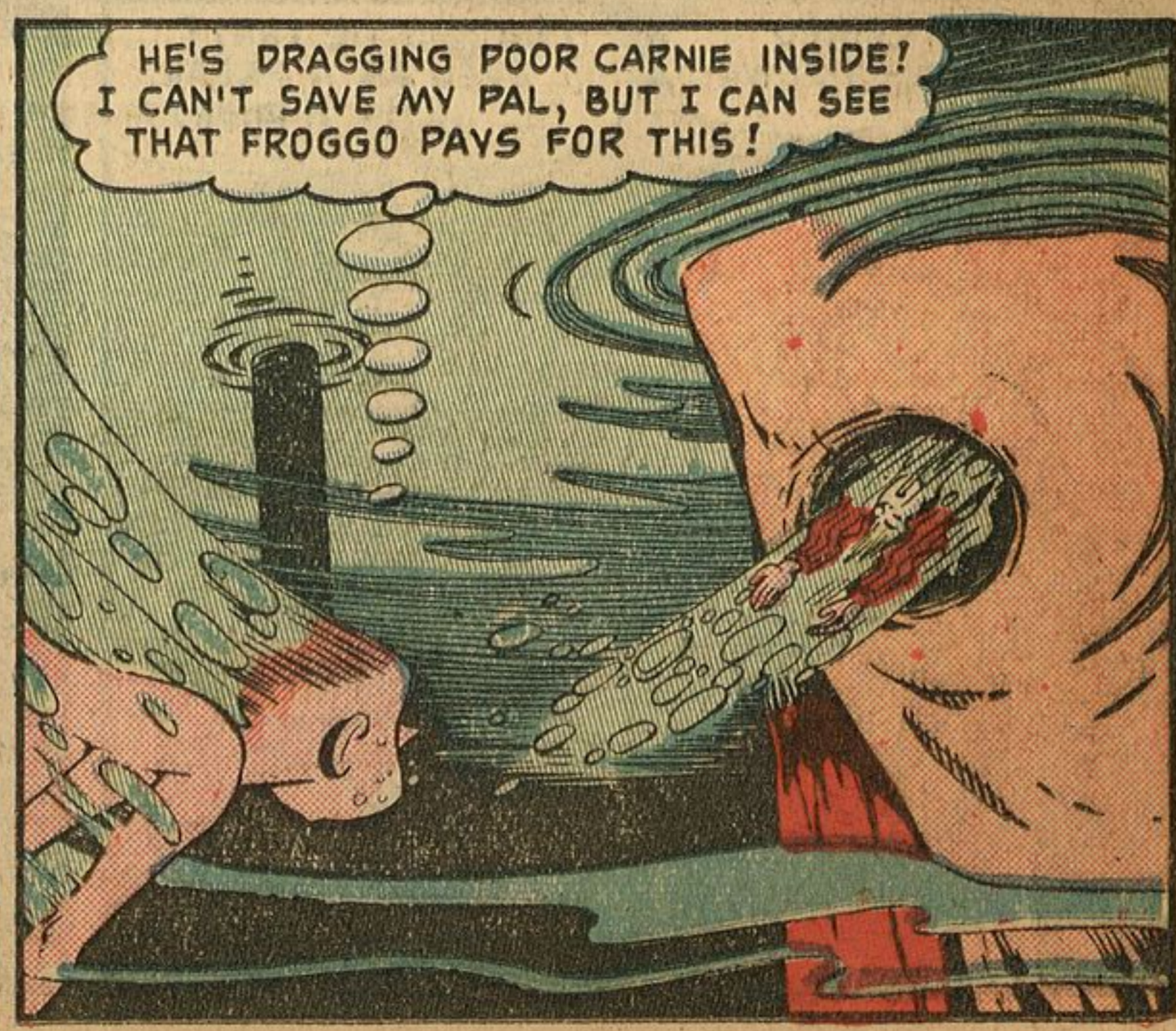
THE AVERAGE HUMAN CAN'T LIVE MORE THAN THREE OR FOUR MINUTES UNDER WATER... I'LL GIVE CALAHAN TEN MINUTES TO MAKE SURE!

HE'S A GONER! I JUST KNOW HE IS! IT'S BEEN OVER TEN MINUTES SINCE HE WAS JERKED DOWN OUT OF SIGHT!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF... CARNIE WARNED ME NOT TO TRUST THAT PUDDLE-PLUNGER!

SPUDO, YOU CAN'T GO DOWN THERE... YOU CAN'T STAY UNDER WATER LIKE FROGGO...
NO, BUT MY FOUR HANDS CAN SWIM FURTHER AND FASTER THAN ANY TWO-ARMED DOUBLE-CROSSER!

IF I DON'T COME BACK, GIVE MY WINTER UNDERWEAR TO THE SIAMESE TWINS!

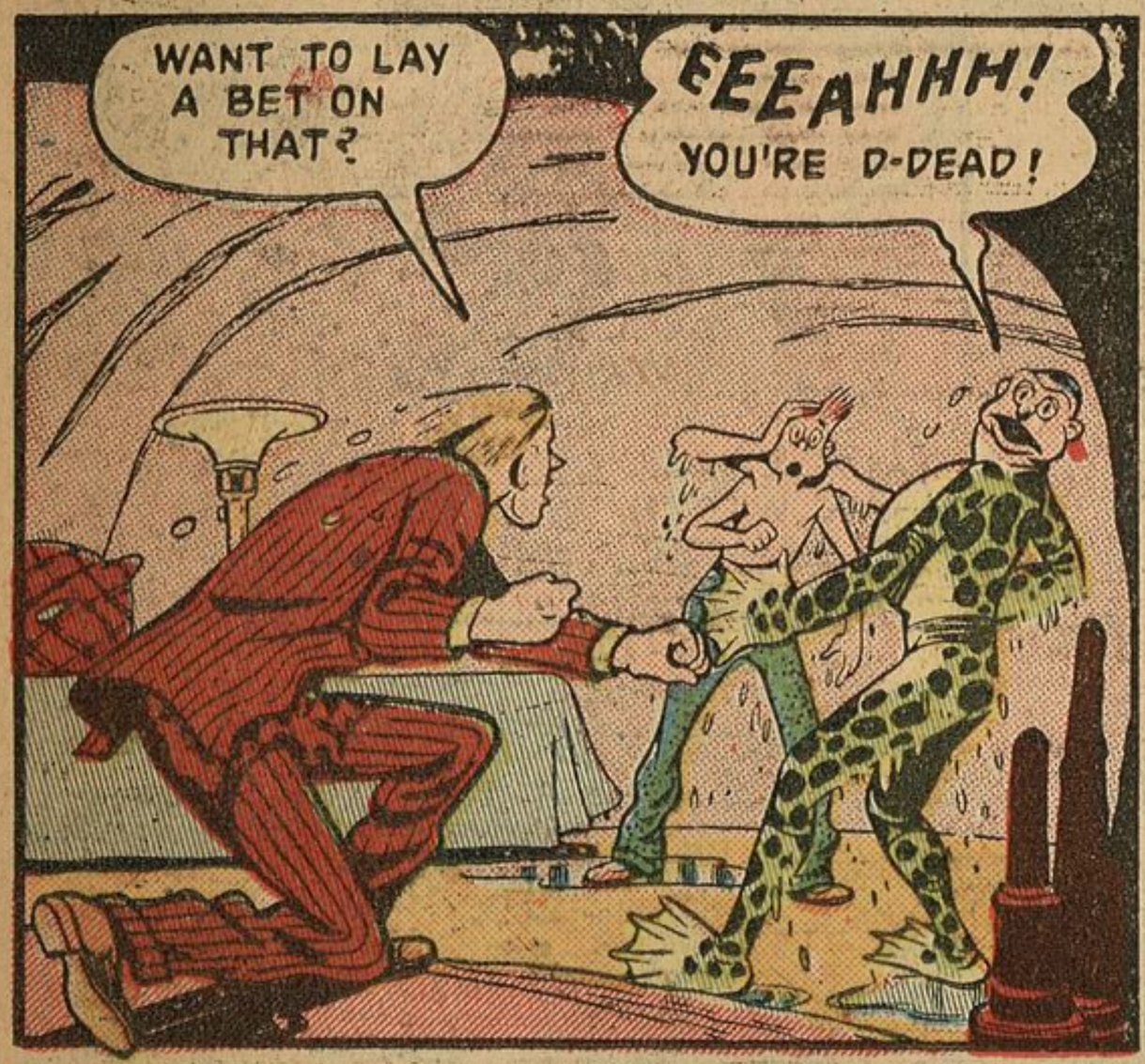

TWELVE MINUTES SHOULD FINISH CALAHAN! I'LL DRAG HIM IN SO SHALI CAN SEE HOW WRONG SHE WAS... NOBODY COULD REVIVE HIM NOW!

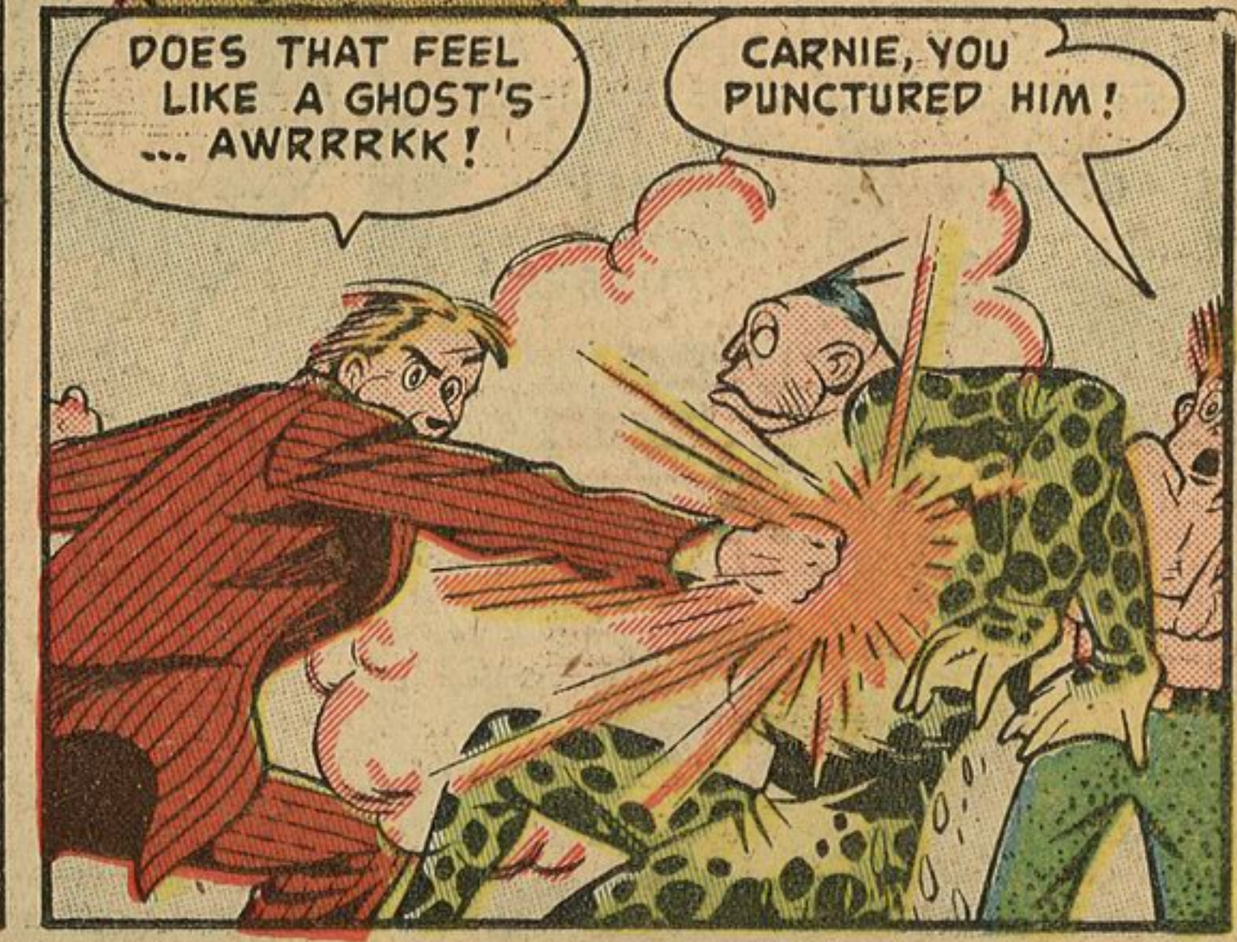

HE'S DRAGGING POOR CARNIE INSIDE! I CAN'T SAVE MY PAL, BUT I CAN SEE THAT FROGGO PAYS FOR THIS!

CARNIE! OH, HE'S DEAD! YOU DROWNED HIM, YOU BEAST!
YEAH, AND I'M SORRY! DROWNING WAS TOO EASY FOR THAT SMART APPLE... HE ONLY STRUGGLED FOR ABOUT THREE MINUTES!

NOW YOU SEE HOW USELESS IT IS TO FIGHT ME, SUGAR! I CAN ROB ANYBODY AND HIDE OUT DOWN HERE IN SAFETY... NOBODY CAN FIND THIS CAVERN...

OH, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, BB-BRAIN! I FOUND IT!
YIIIKE!!! YOU AREN'T HUMAN! AND YOU WON'T LIVE TO TELL ANYBODY!


WANT TO LAY A BET ON THAT?
EEEAHHH! YOU'RE D-DEAD!


DOES THAT FEEL LIKE A GHOST'S ... AWRRRKK!
CARNIE, YOU PUNCTURED HIM!

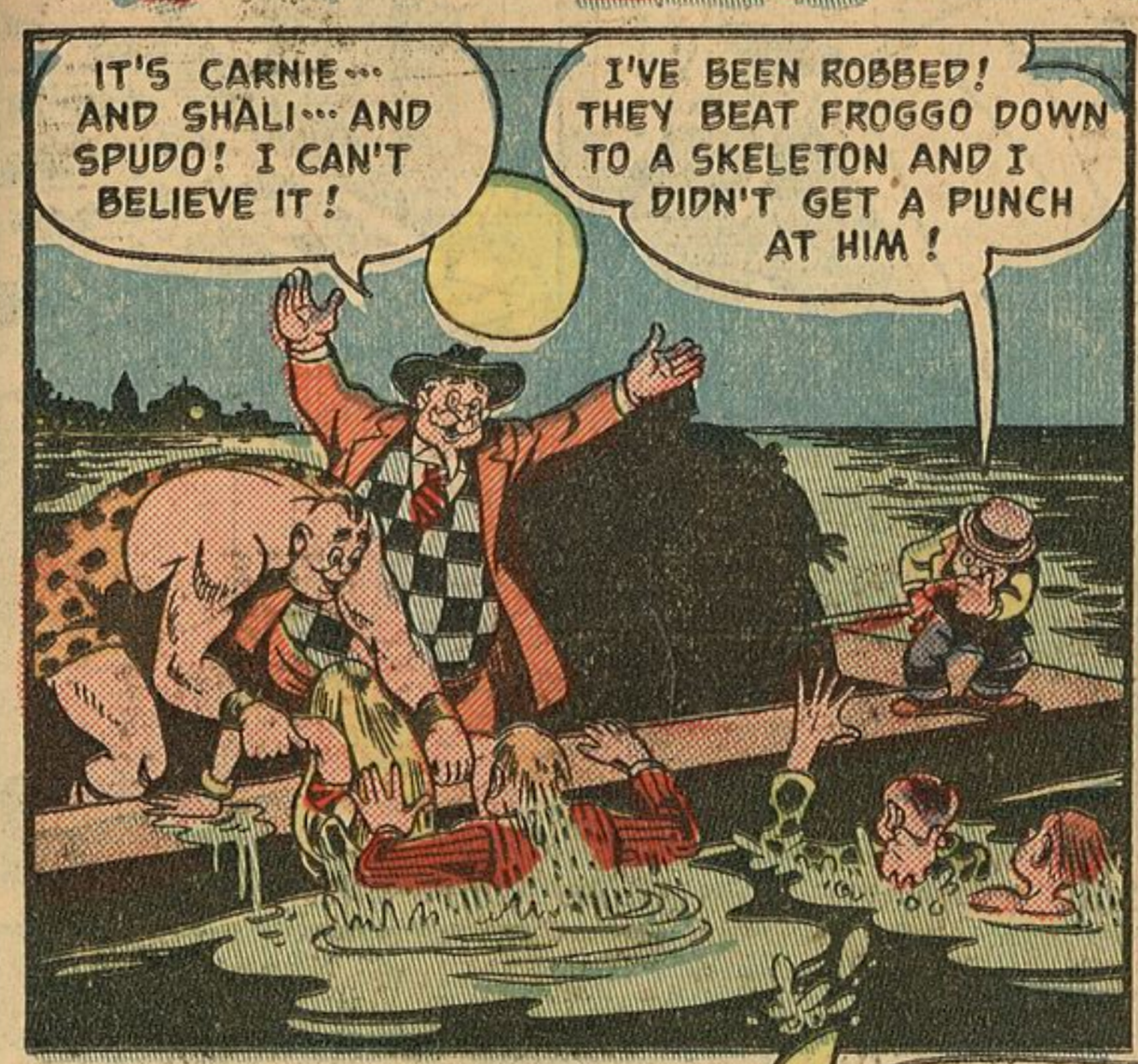
YOU'VE RUINED ME! I'LL DROWN!
CAN YOU TIE THAT? EVEN AS A FREAK, THE GUY'S A PHONY!

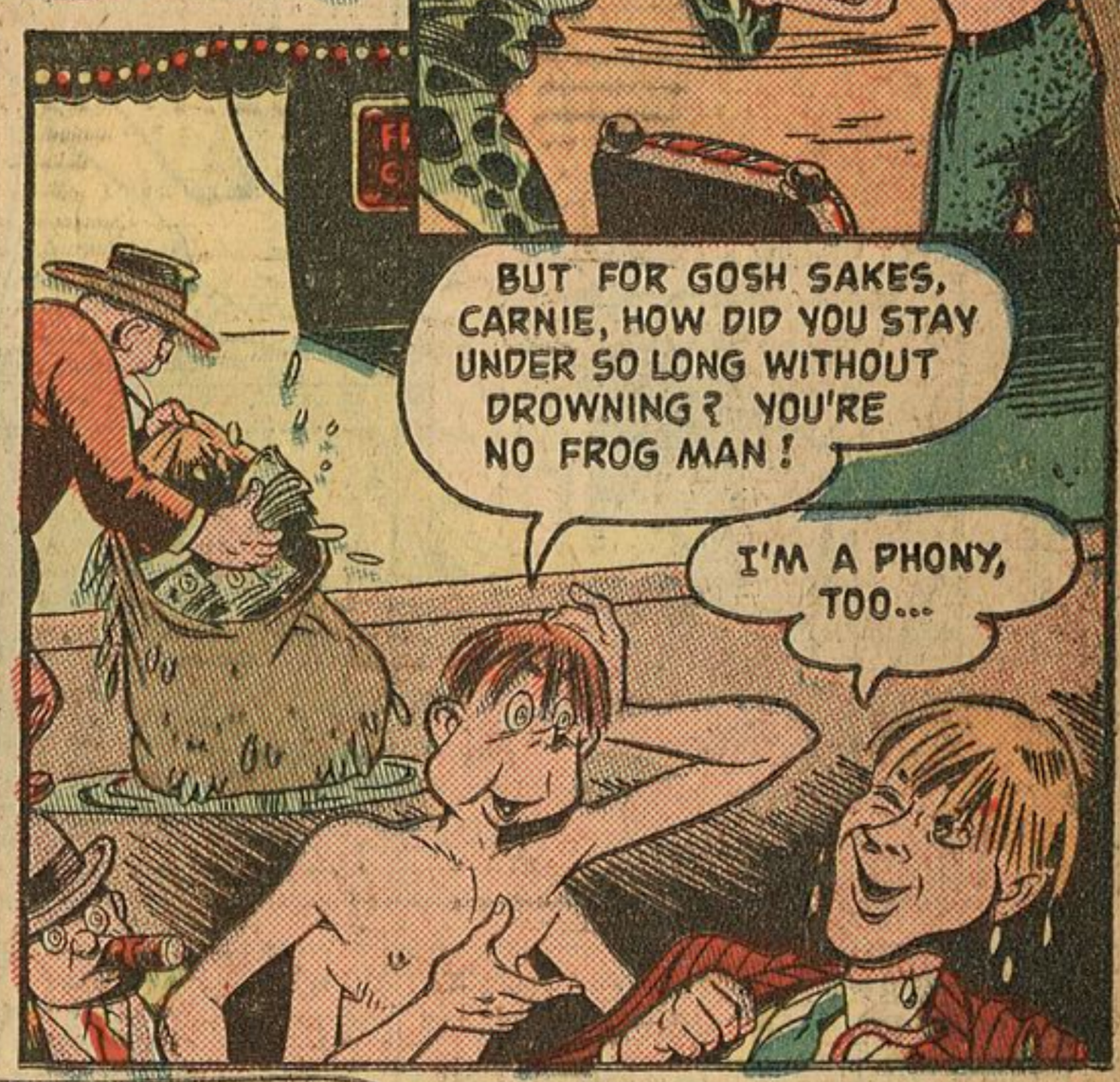
AND I HATE PHONIES!
SO DO I, CARNIE! SLUG SOME OVER MY WAY...

THANKS!
AIEEEEEEE!

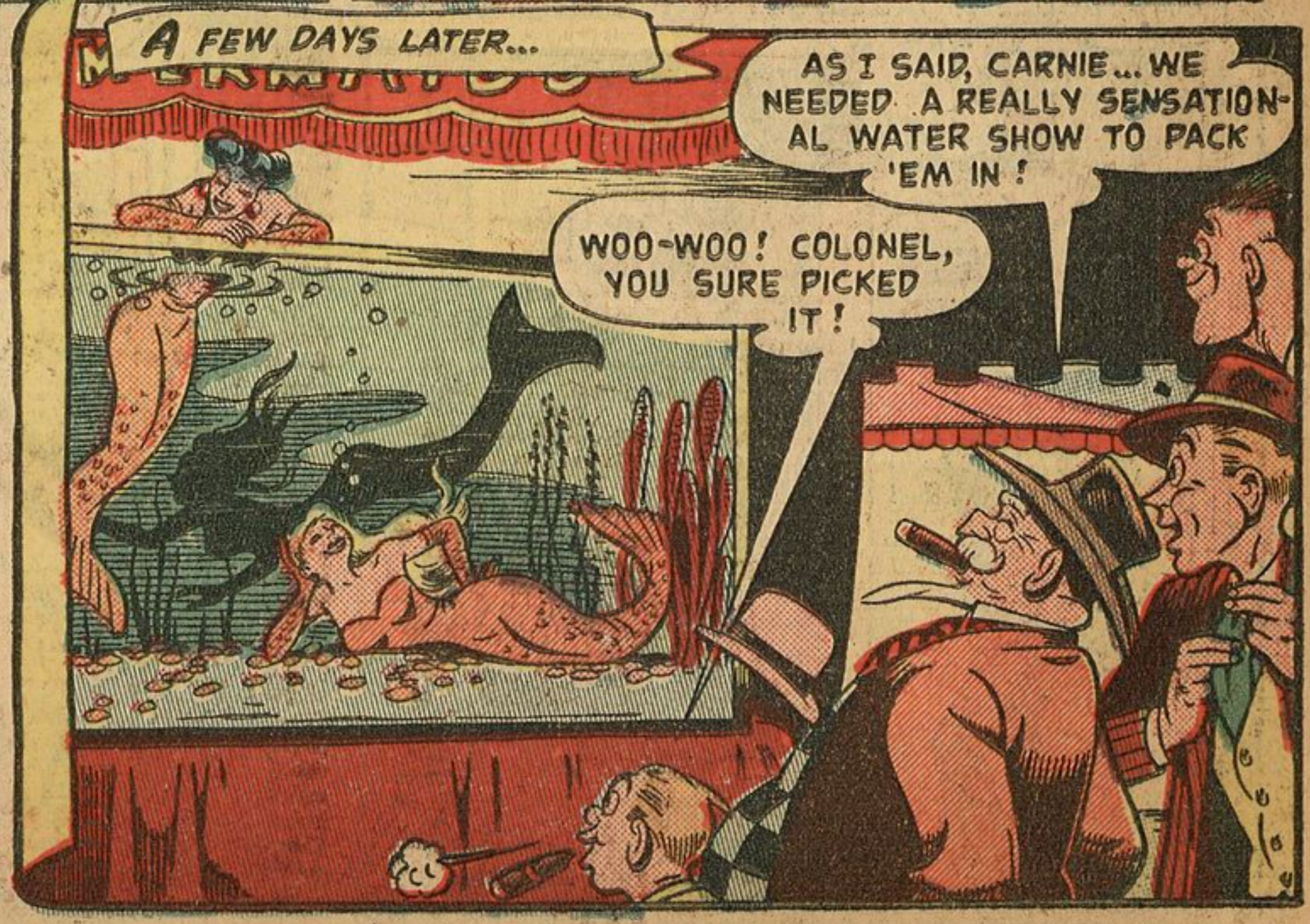
CAN YOU BEAT THAT? A BLADDER OF AIR WITH A FLESH-COLORED TUBE IN HIS MOUTH... THAT'S HOW HE BREATHED UNDER WATER!
WHAT A PHONEY! EVEN HIS BIG FEET ARE RUBBER WITH SPRINGS INSIDE TO HELP HIM JUMP...

HANG ON, SHALI! WE'LL GO UP AND LET THE GANG KNOW WE'RE ALL ALIVE AGAIN...
AND DELIVER THIS SKINNY FAKER TO THE COPS! I'LL CARRY THE MONEY!


IT'S CARNIE... AND SHALI... AND SPUDO! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
I'VE BEEN ROBBED! THEY BEAT FROGGO DOWN TO A SKELETON AND I DIDN'T GET A PUNCH AT HIM!


BUT FOR GOSH SAKES, CARNIE, HOW DID YOU STAY UNDER SO LONG WITHOUT DROWNING? YOU'RE NO FROG MAN!
I'M A PHONY, TOO...

I USED THE BLADDER OF YOUR PUNCHING BAG TO SUPPLY MY AIR, SPUDO! FROGGO WAS TOO BUSY HANGING ONTO MY ANKLES TO NOTICE...

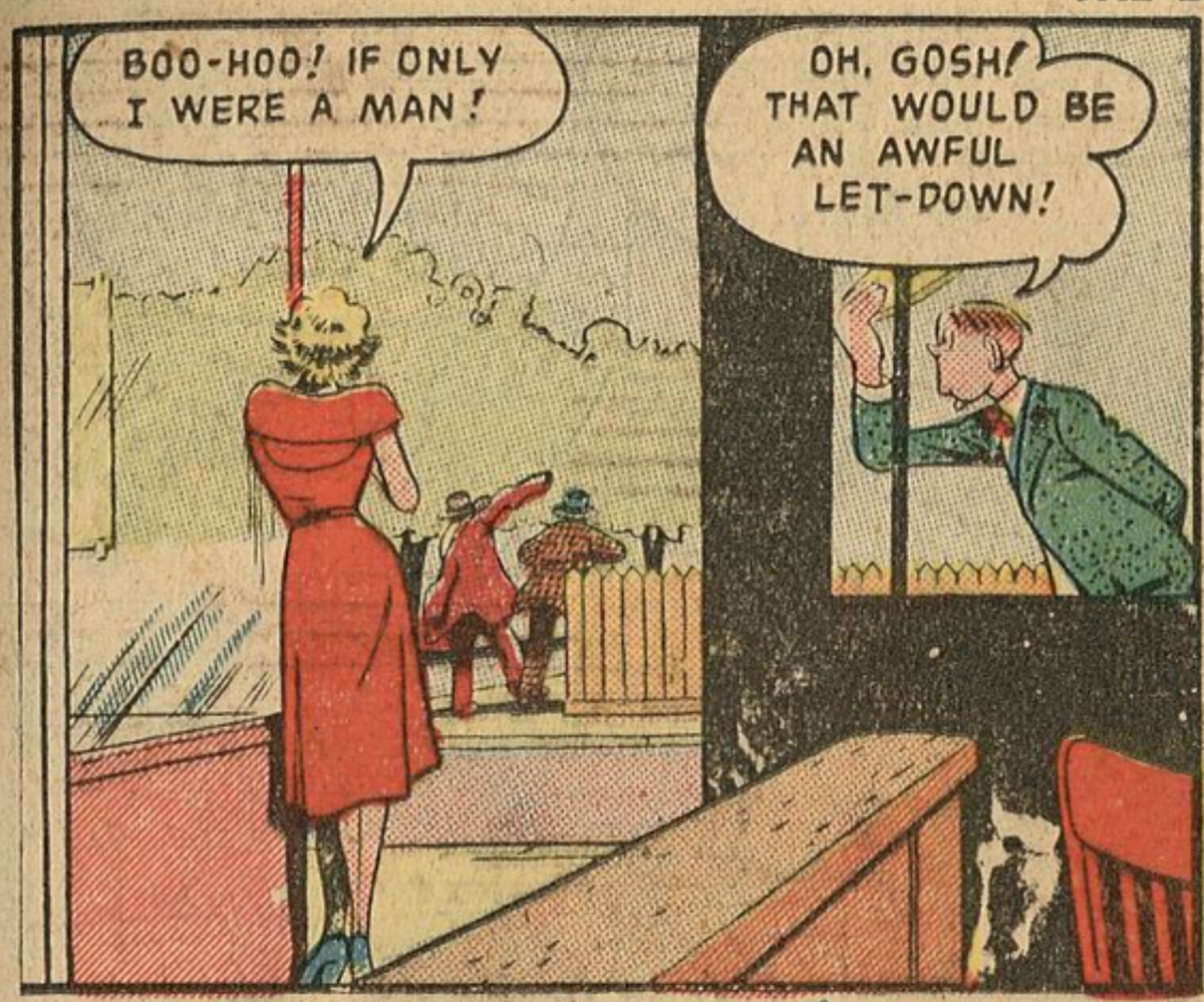

A FEW DAYS LATER...
AS I SAID, CARNIE... WE NEEDED A REALLY SENSATIONAL WATER SHOW TO PACK 'EM IN!
WOO-WOO! COLONEL, YOU SURE PICKED IT!

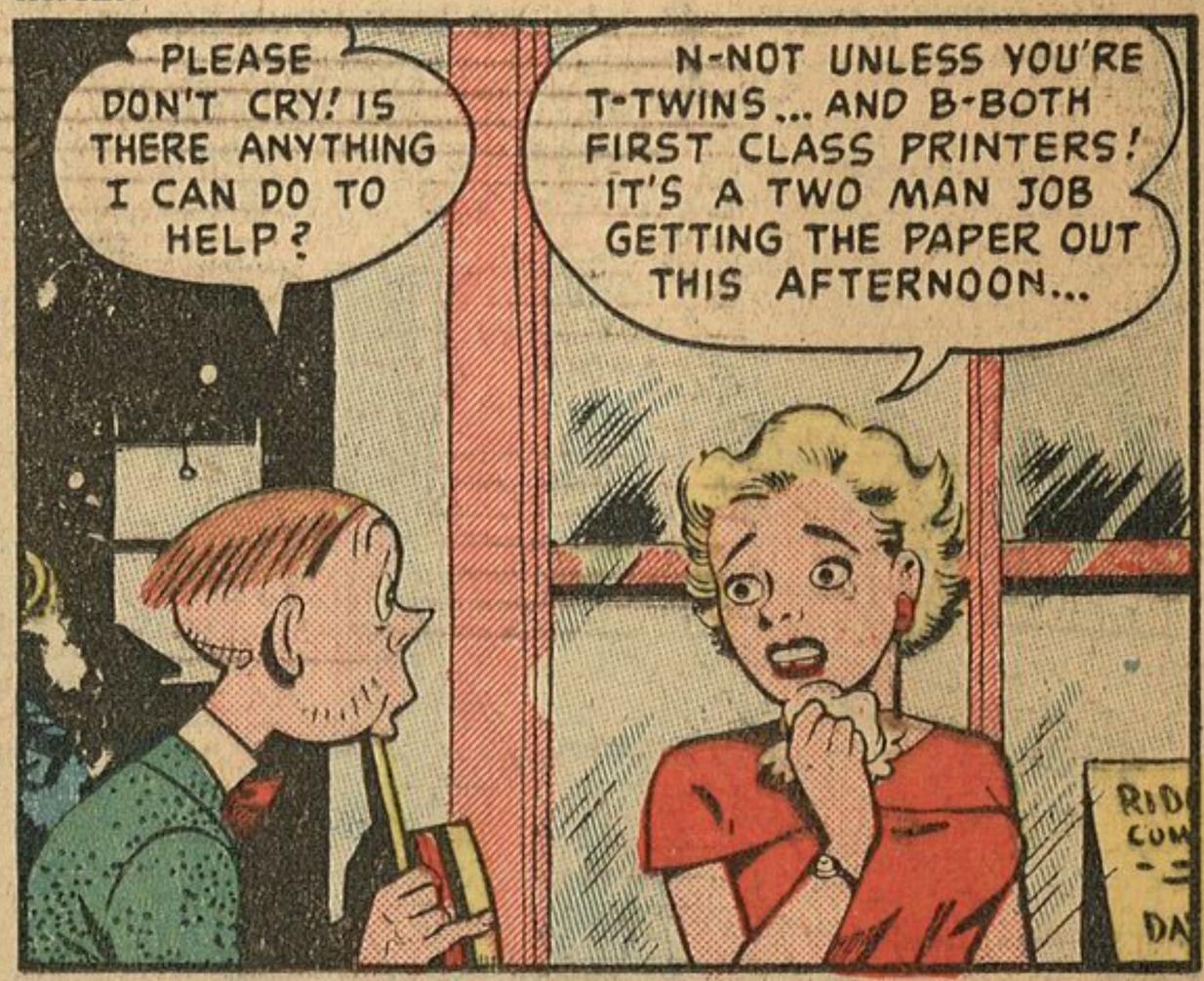
Spudo

OH, SPUDO, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

SORRY, BOYS, BUT I JUST WASHED MY HANDS AND I CAN'T DO A THING WITH THEM!

Klaus Nordling

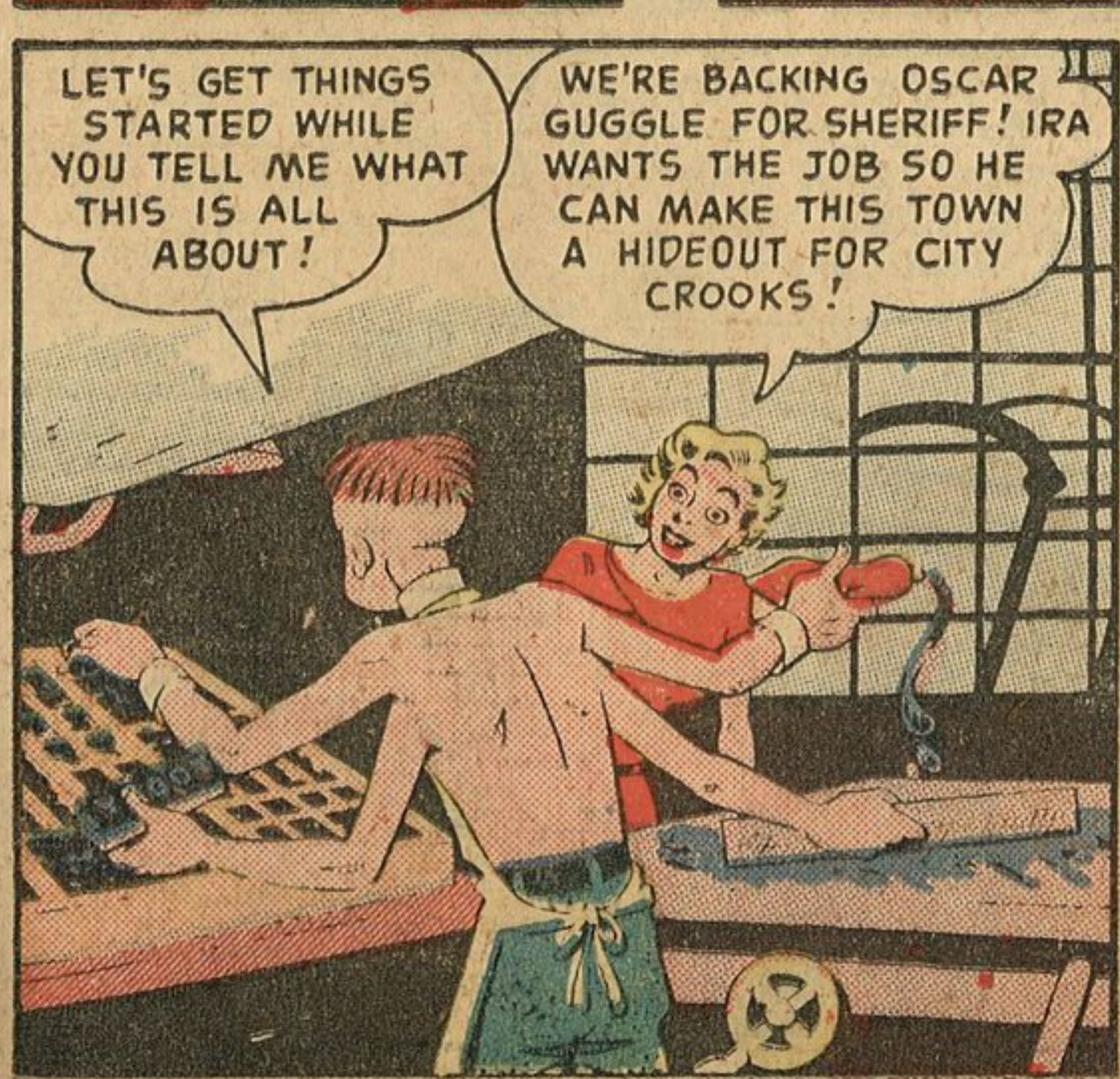

BOO-HOO! IF ONLY I WERE A MAN!
OH, GOSH! THAT WOULD BE AN AWFUL LET-DOWN!


PLEASE DON'T CRY! IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
N-NOT UNLESS YOU'RE T-TWINS... AND B-BOTH FIRST CLASS PRINTERS! IT'S A TWO MAN JOB GETTING THE PAPER OUT THIS AFTERNOON...

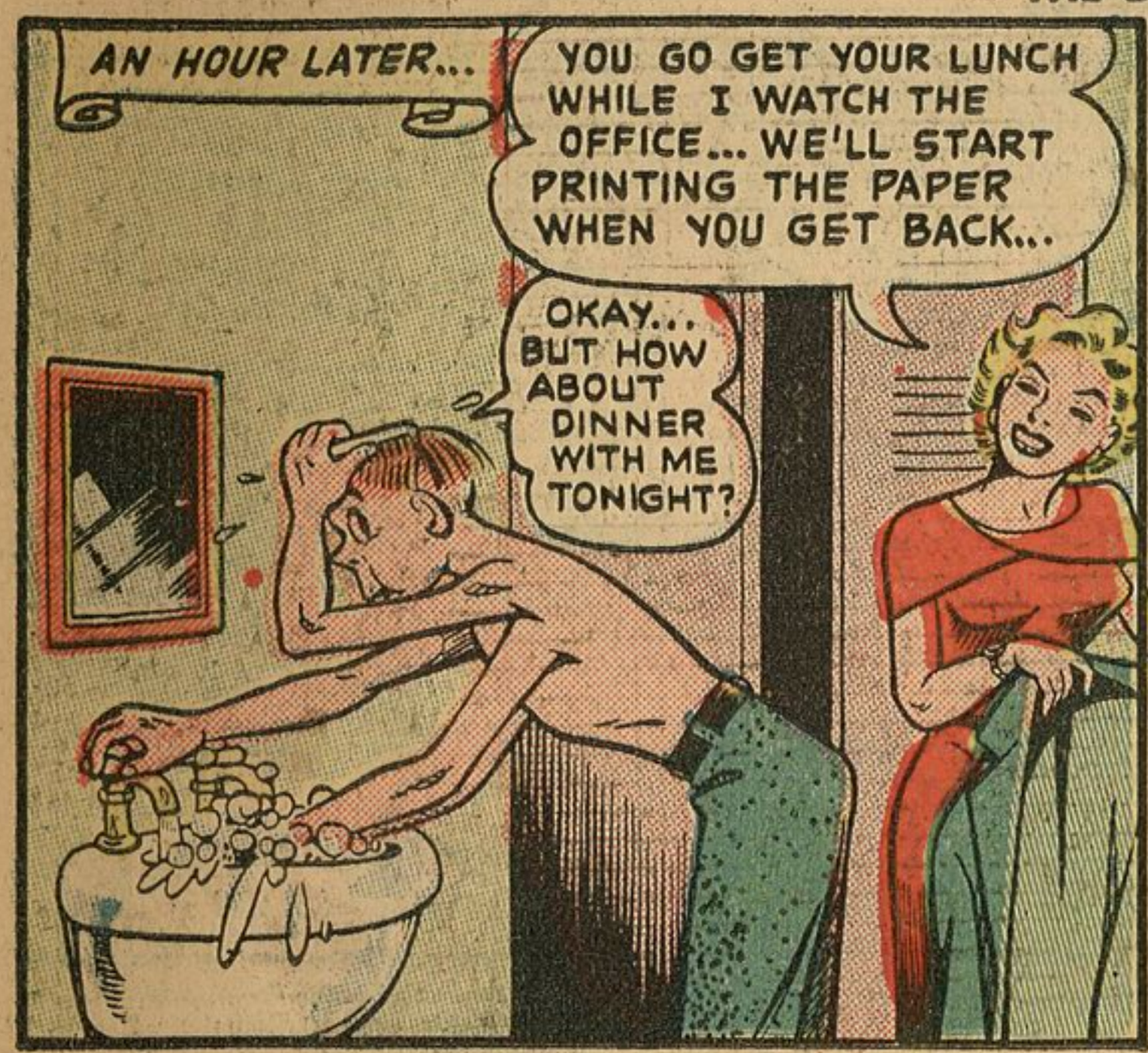
IRA RATT SCARES OFF EVERYBODY WHO TRIES TO WORK FOR ME... HE KNOWS WE'RE LICKED WITHOUT HELP... AND WE CAN'T GET HELP!
NOW I WOULDN'T SAY THAT! I'M AN OLD NEWSPAPER MAN MYSELF WITH A LITTLE SPARE TIME ON MY HANDS!

AND WHAT HAVE TWO PRINTERS GOT THAT I HAVEN'T GOT?
OOOO! WHAT A HANDY MAN TO HAVE AROUND!

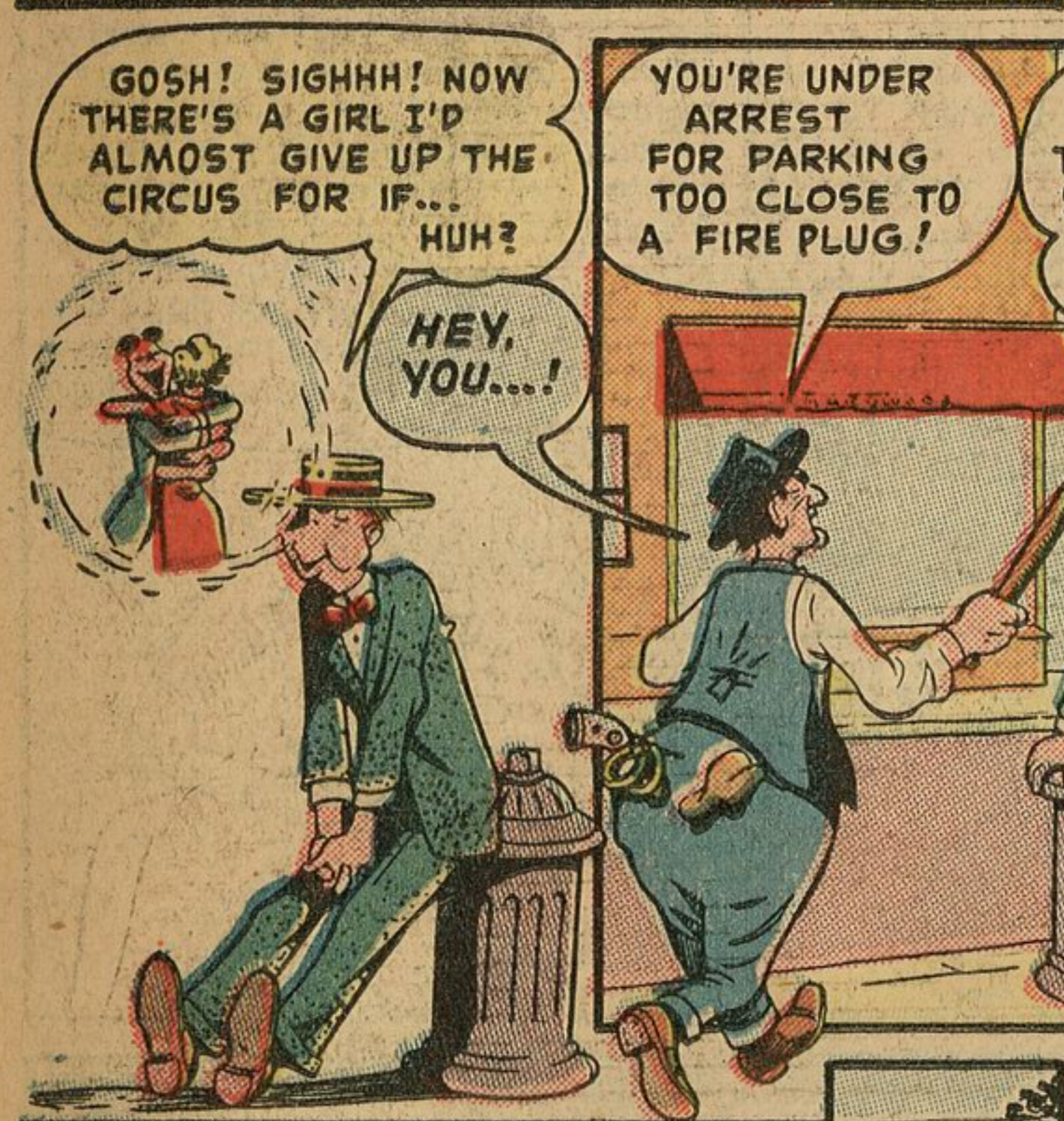
B-BUT I CAN'T LET YOU RISK GETTING HURT... IRA RATT HAS A GANG OF NASTY HOODLUMS WORKING FOR HIM... HE RUNS EVERYTHING!
WELL, HE'S NOT RUNNING ME! AND I'M GOING TO WORK THE PRINTING PRESS SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY, ELLEN!


LET'S GET THINGS STARTED WHILE YOU TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
WE'RE BACKING OSCAR GUGGLE FOR SHERIFF! IRA WANTS THE JOB SO HE CAN MAKE THIS TOWN A HIDEOUT FOR CITY CROOKS!

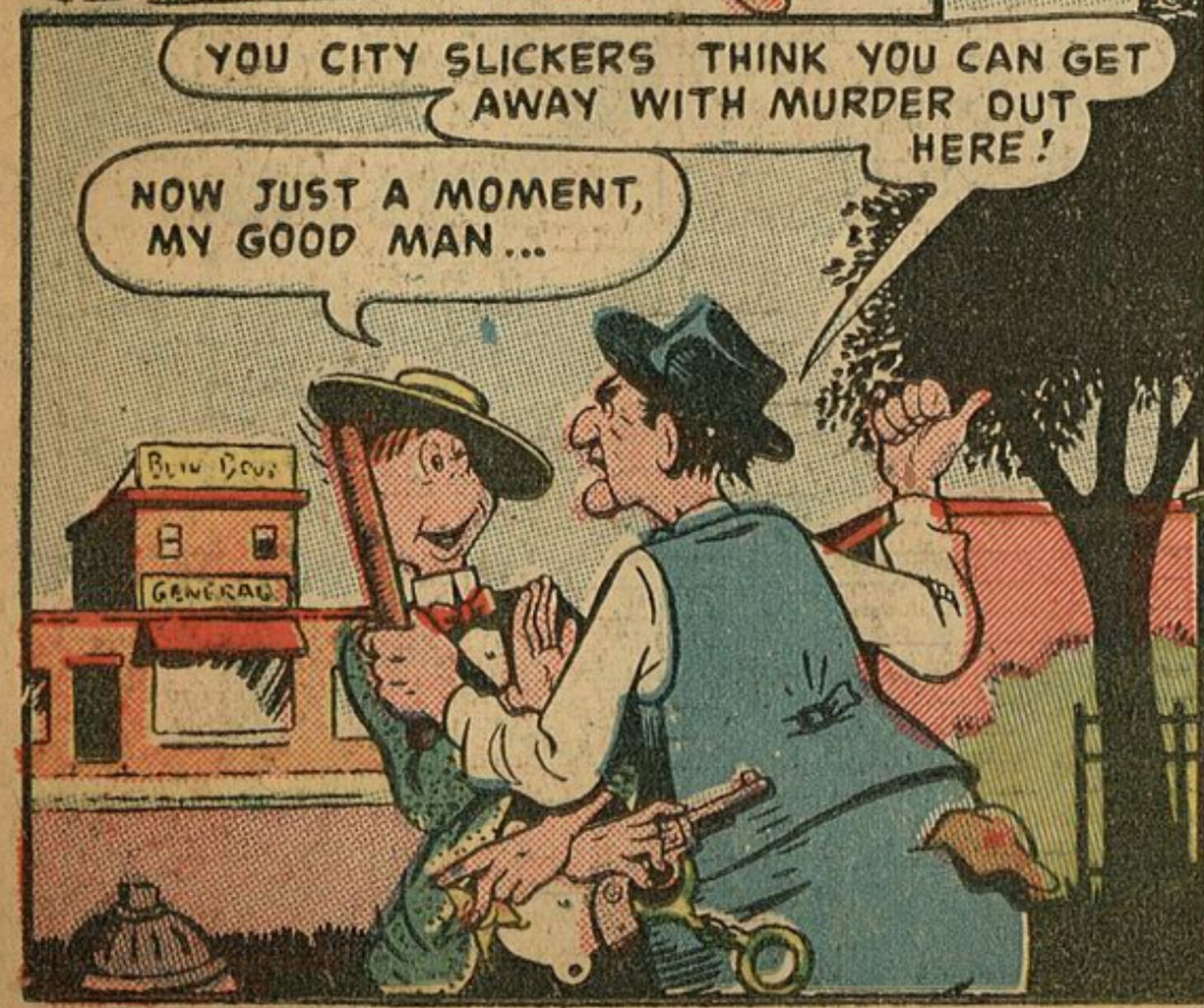
THEN WE'LL ELECT OSCAR GUGGLE IF I HAFTA COUNT THE VOTES MYSELF!
UH-OH! IRA AIN'T GONNA LIKE THIS ONE BIT!

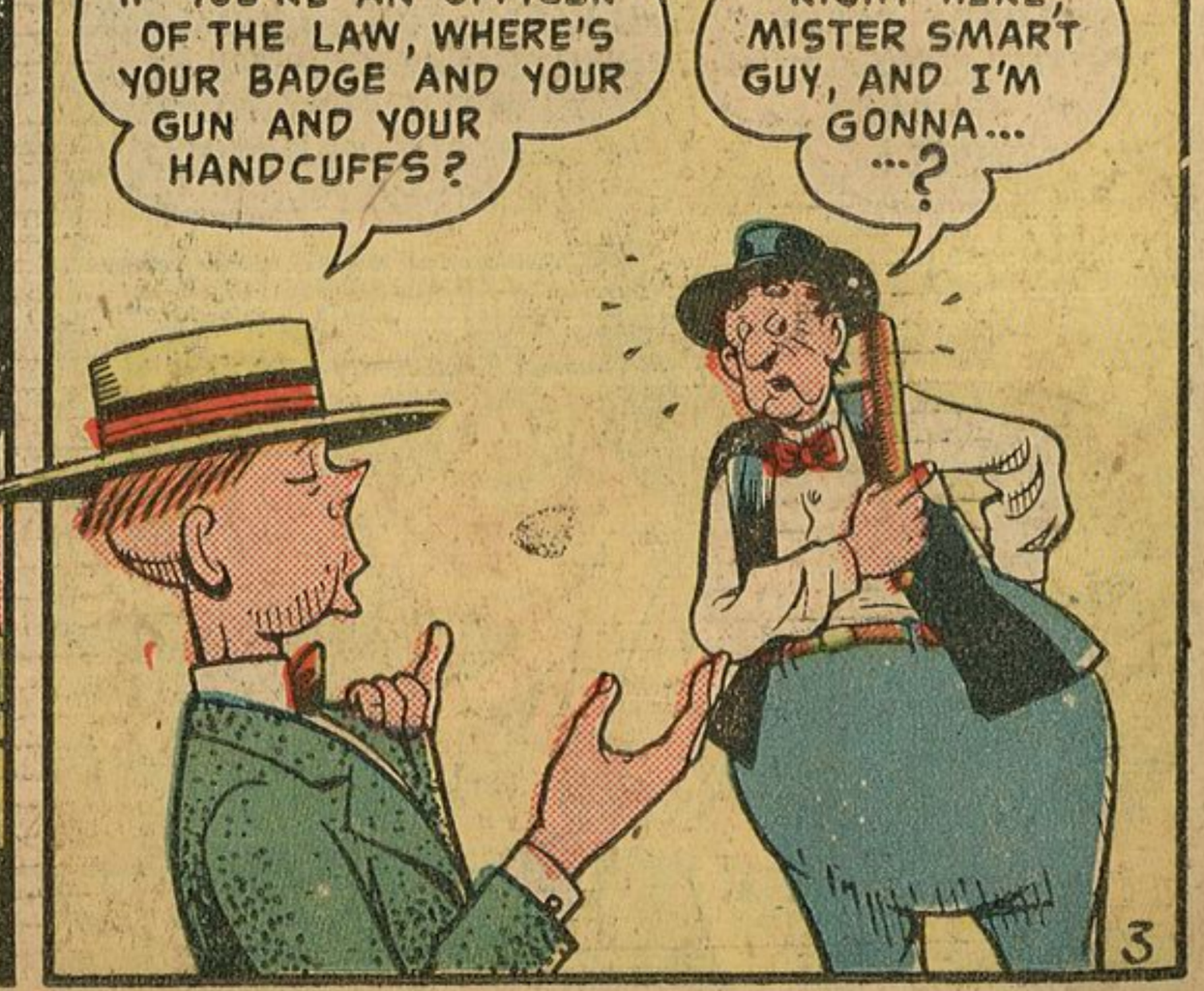

AN HOUR LATER...
YOU GO GET YOUR LUNCH WHILE I WATCH THE OFFICE... WE'LL START PRINTING THE PAPER WHEN YOU GET BACK...
OKAY... BUT HOW ABOUT DINNER WITH ME TONIGHT?

WE'LL SEE, SPUDO! WATCH OUT FOR SNODGRASS, THE DEPUTY SHERIFF---HE'S ONE OF IRA'S MEN!
DON'T WORRY, ELLEN... I'M ONE HUNK OF CHEESE THE RATS DON'T SNIFF AROUND VERY LONG!


GOSH! SIGHHH! NOW THERE'S A GIRL I'D ALMOST GIVE UP THE CIRCUS FOR IF... HUH?
HEY, YOU...!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR PARKING TOO CLOSE TO A FIRE PLUG!
HUH? UH-OH! THIS MUST BE SNODGRASS, THE DEPUTY!

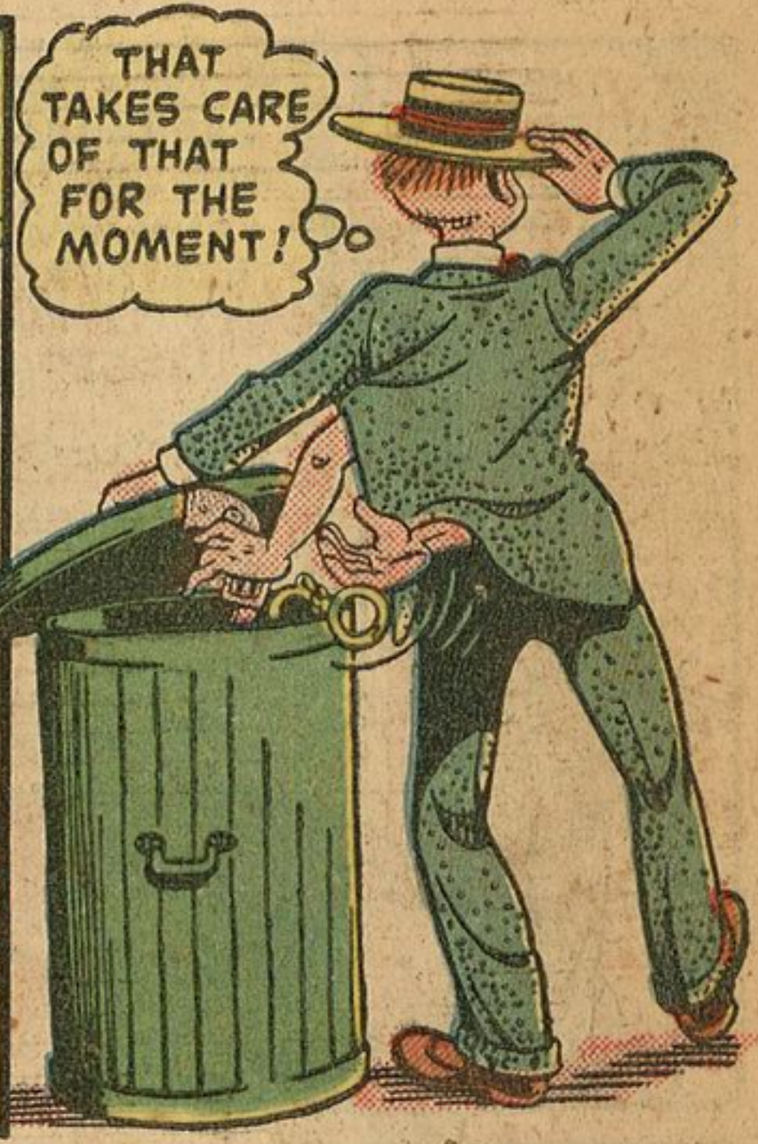
HOW CAN I PARK TOO CLOSE TO A FIRE PLUG? I DON'T EVEN HAVE A CAR!
LAW DON'T SAY NOTHIN' ABOUT A CAR, BUB! YOU'RE PARKIN'... AND THERE'S A PLUG! COME ALONG PEACEFUL OR I'LL PUT THE CUFFS ON YUH!

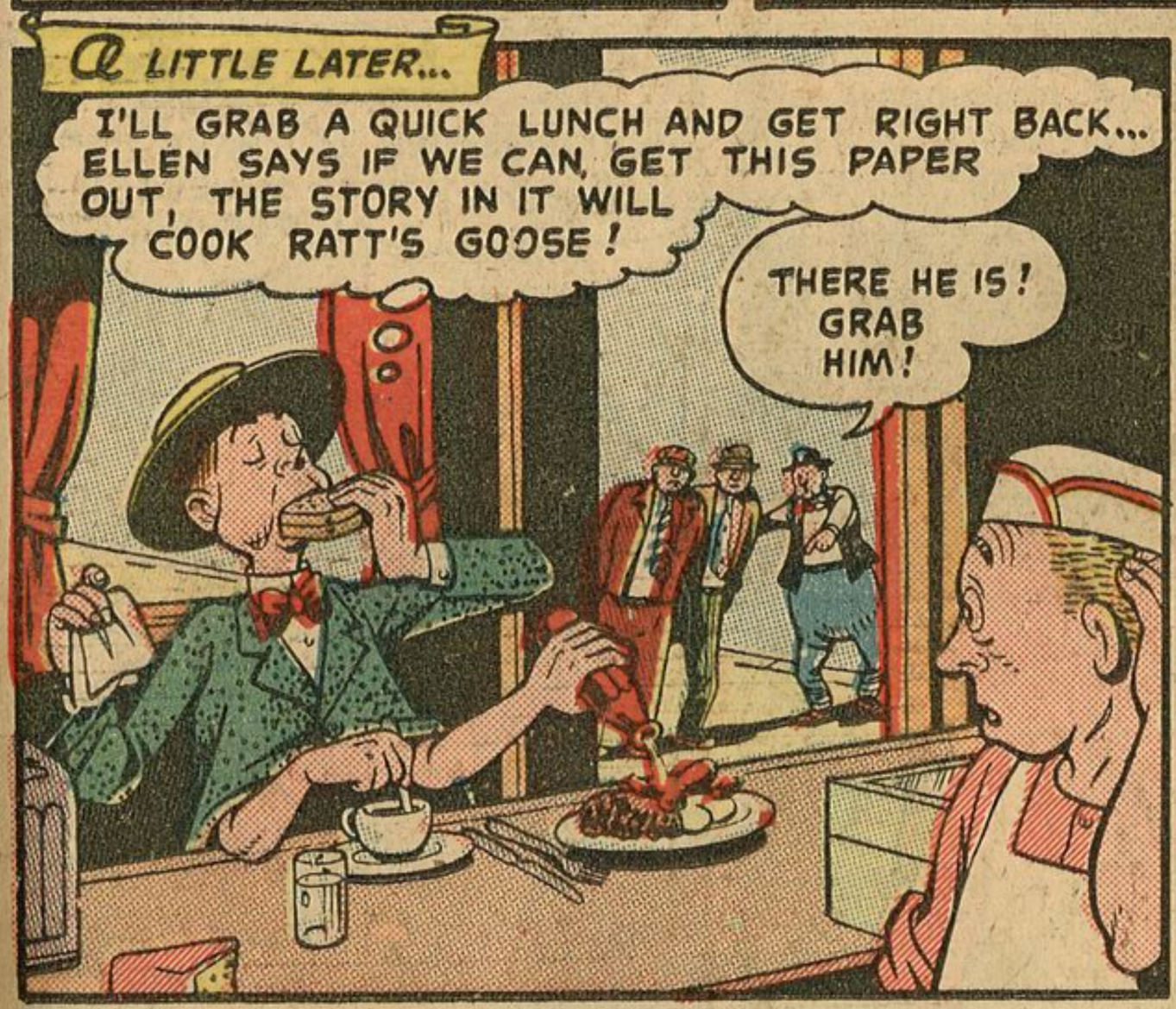

YOU CITY SLICKERS THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH MURDER OUT HERE!
NOW JUST A MOMENT, MY GOOD MAN...
GENERAL

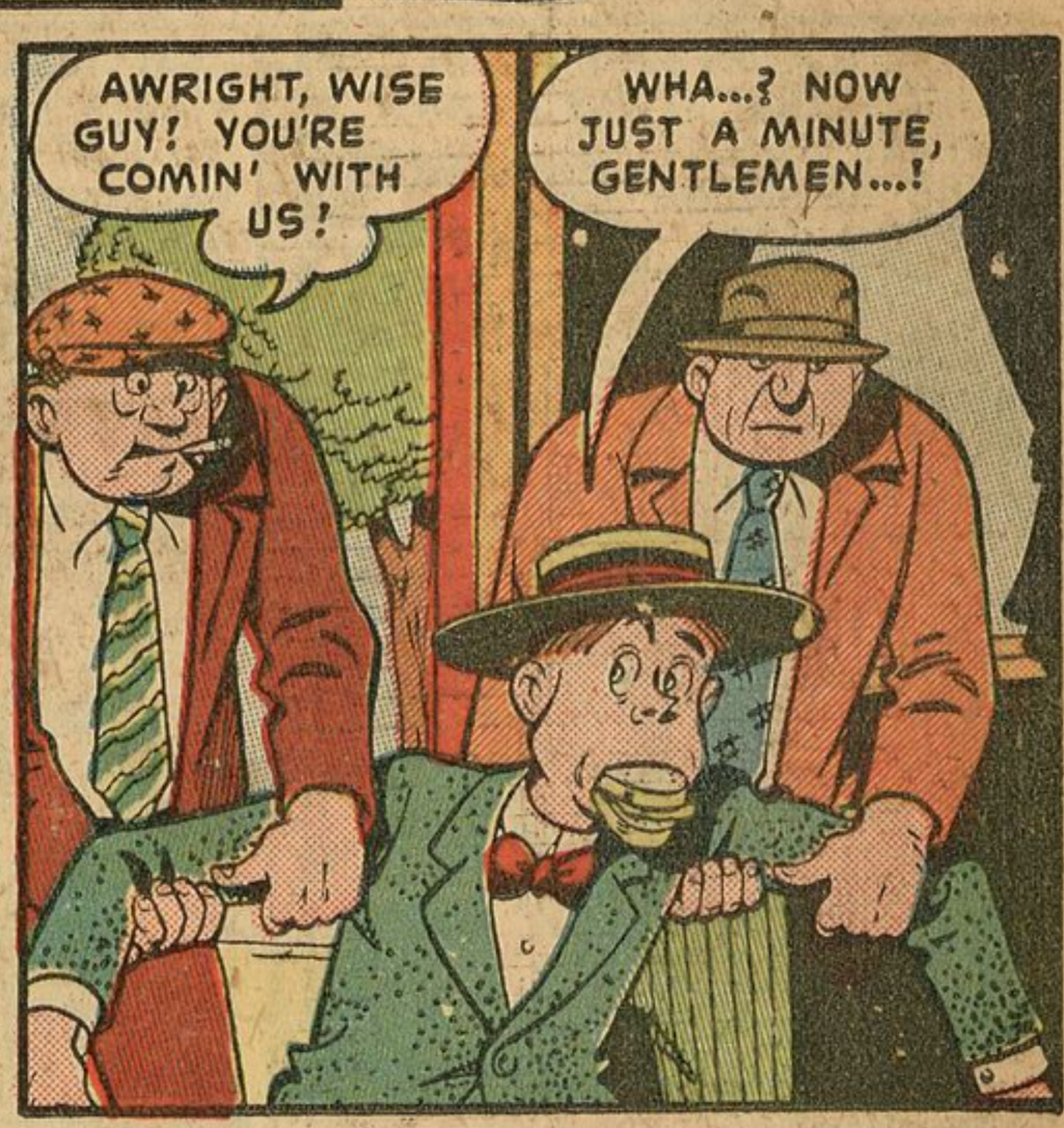

IF YOU'RE AN OFFICER OF THE LAW, WHERE'S YOUR BADGE AND YOUR GUN AND YOUR HANDCUFFS?
RIGHT HERE, MISTER SMART GUY, AND I'M GONNA... ...?

GRRAWKKK! THEY'RE GONE! SOME DIRTY CROOK MUSTA LIFTED 'EM!
A LIKELY STORY! I SHOULD HAVE YOU ARRESTED FOR IMPERSONATING AN OFFICER!

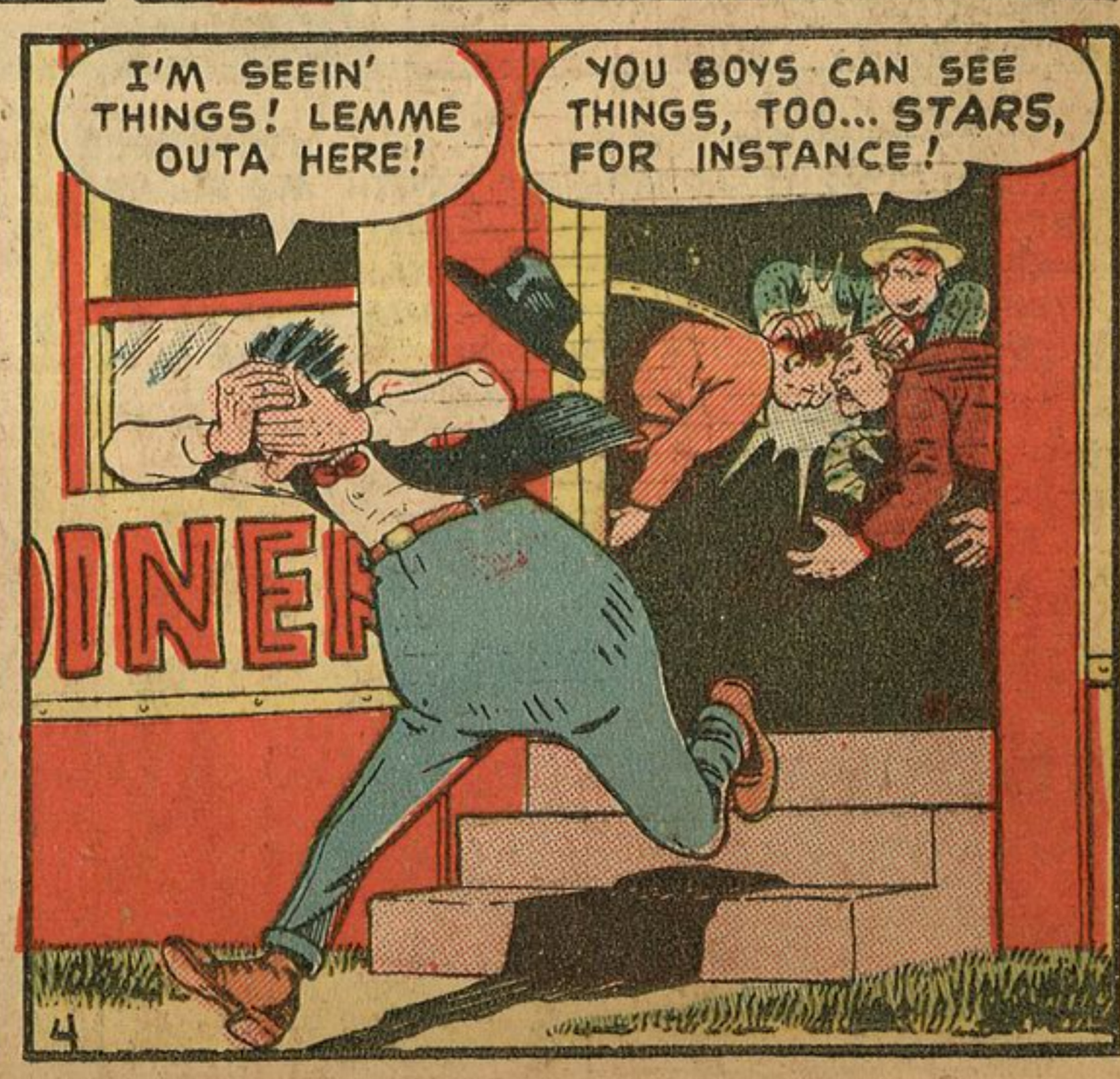
HOWEVER, I'LL LET YOU OFF THIS TIME... BUT DON'T TRY IT AGAIN!
YES, SIR! NO, SIR!

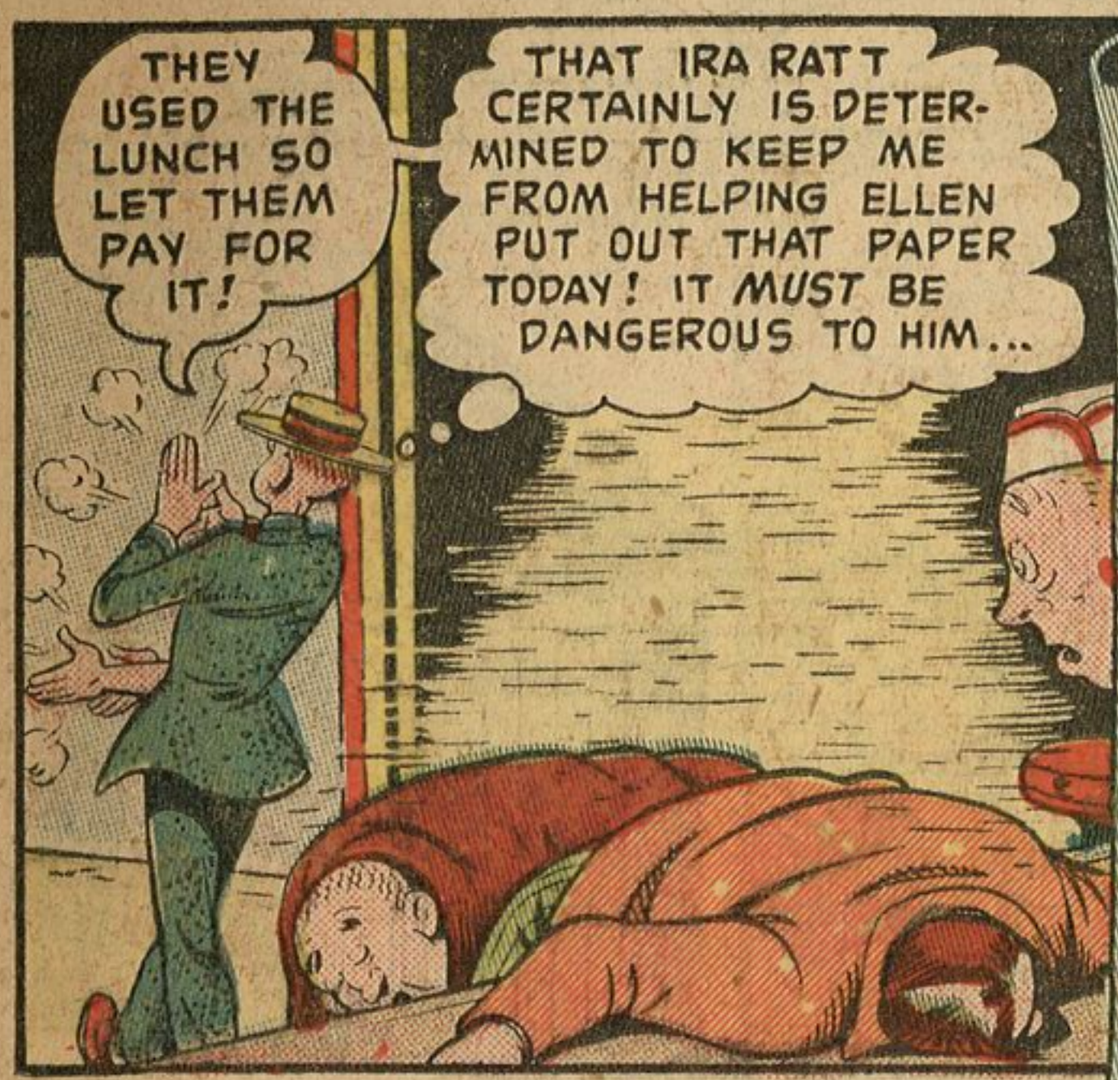

THAT TAKES CARE OF THAT FOR THE MOMENT!

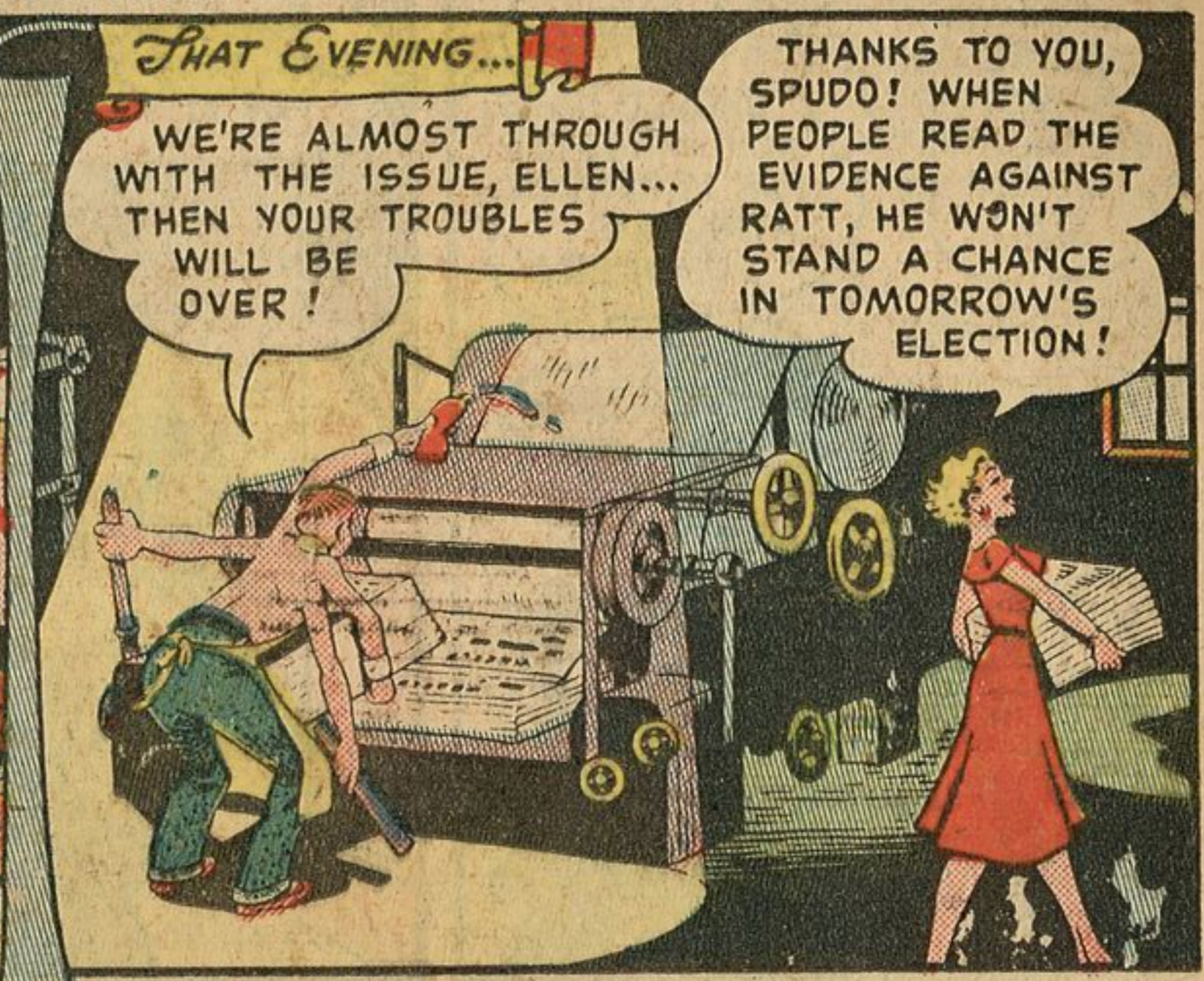

A LITTLE LATER...
I'LL GRAB A QUICK LUNCH AND GET RIGHT BACK... ELLEN SAYS IF WE CAN GET THIS PAPER OUT, THE STORY IN IT WILL COOK RATT'S GOOSE!
THERE HE IS! GRAB HIM!


AWRIGHT, WISE GUY! YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US!
WHA...? NOW JUST A MINUTE, GENTLEMEN...!

TAKE A MOMENT TO ENJOY THIS DELICIOUS BEEF STEW AND COFFEE!
Yiiiiiii! THE GUY'S ALL HANDS!


I'M SEEIN' THINGS! LEMME OUTA HERE!
YOU BOYS CAN SEE THINGS, TOO... STARS, FOR INSTANCE!
DINER


THEY USED THE LUNCH SO LET THEM PAY FOR IT!
THAT IRA RATT CERTAINLY IS DETERMINED TO KEEP ME FROM HELPING ELLEN PUT OUT THAT PAPER TODAY! IT MUST BE DANGEROUS TO HIM...

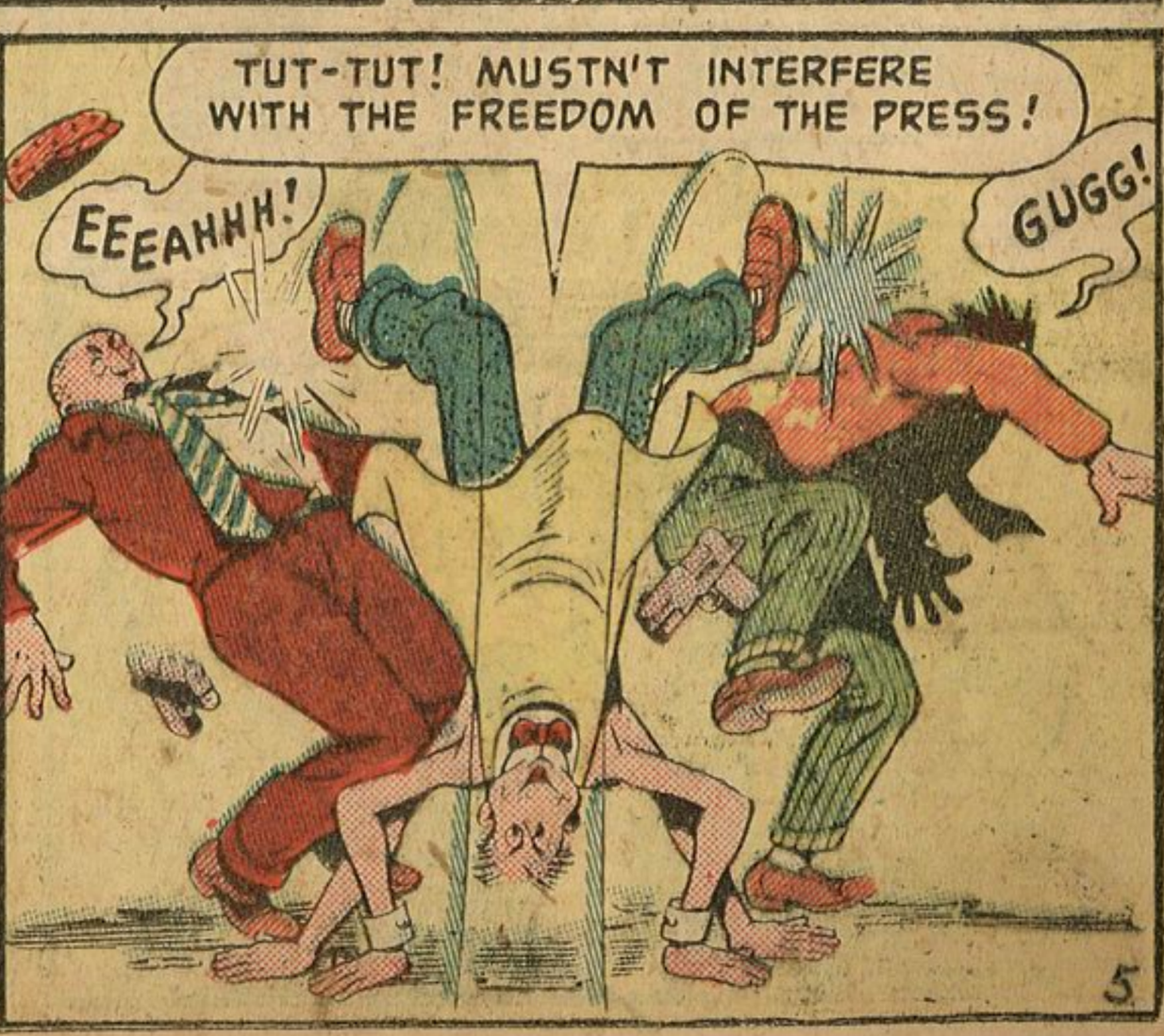

THAT EVENING...
WE'RE ALMOST THROUGH WITH THE ISSUE, ELLEN... THEN YOUR TROUBLES WILL BE OVER!
THANKS TO YOU, SPUDO! WHEN PEOPLE READ THE EVIDENCE AGAINST RATT, HE WON'T STAND A CHANCE IN TOMORROW'S ELECTION!

EXACTLY, MY DEAR MISS EDGE! THAT'S WHY I CAN'T AFFORD TO LET ONE OF THOSE PAPERS GET OUT!
OH! IRA RATT AND HIS TRAINED MICE!

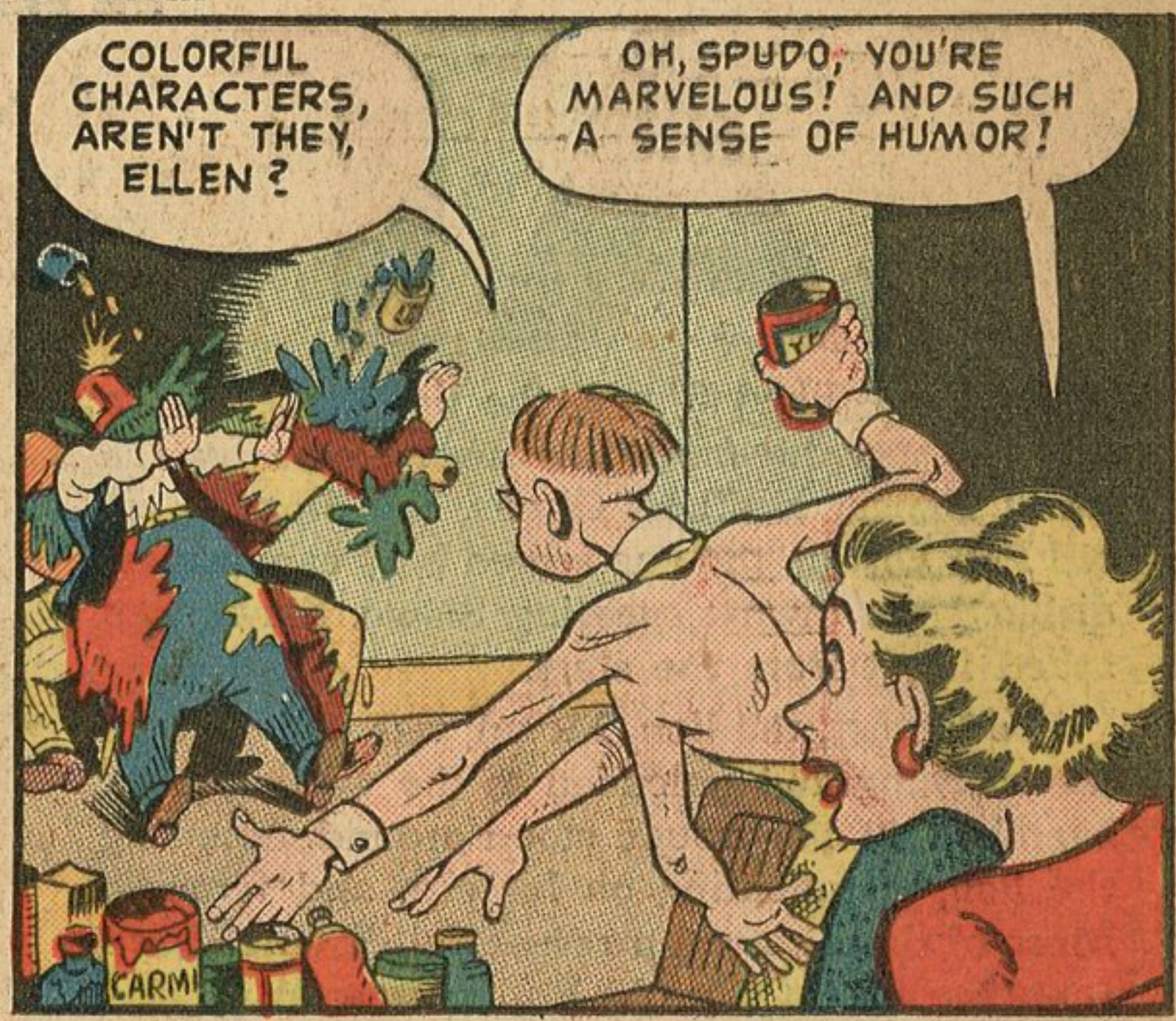
I'M SUING YOUR PAPER FOR LIBEL! YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO PUT OUT A SINGLE COPY WITHOUT COURT PERMISSION... AND THAT'LL BE AFTER ELECTION!
IT'S ALL LEGAL! I'LL READ YUH THE INJUNCTION...
INK

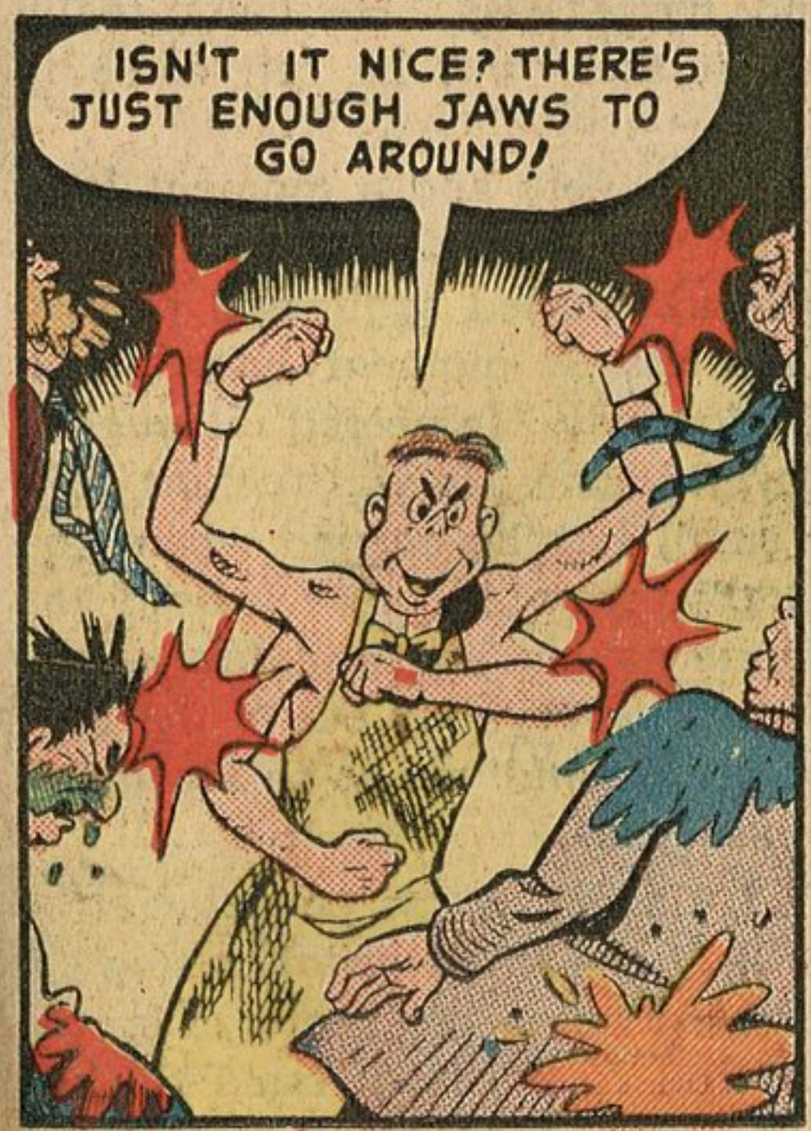
WHEREAS AND HEREINBEFORE ...EEEOWW!
OH, DEAR! I MUST HAVE SQUEEZED TOO HARD!

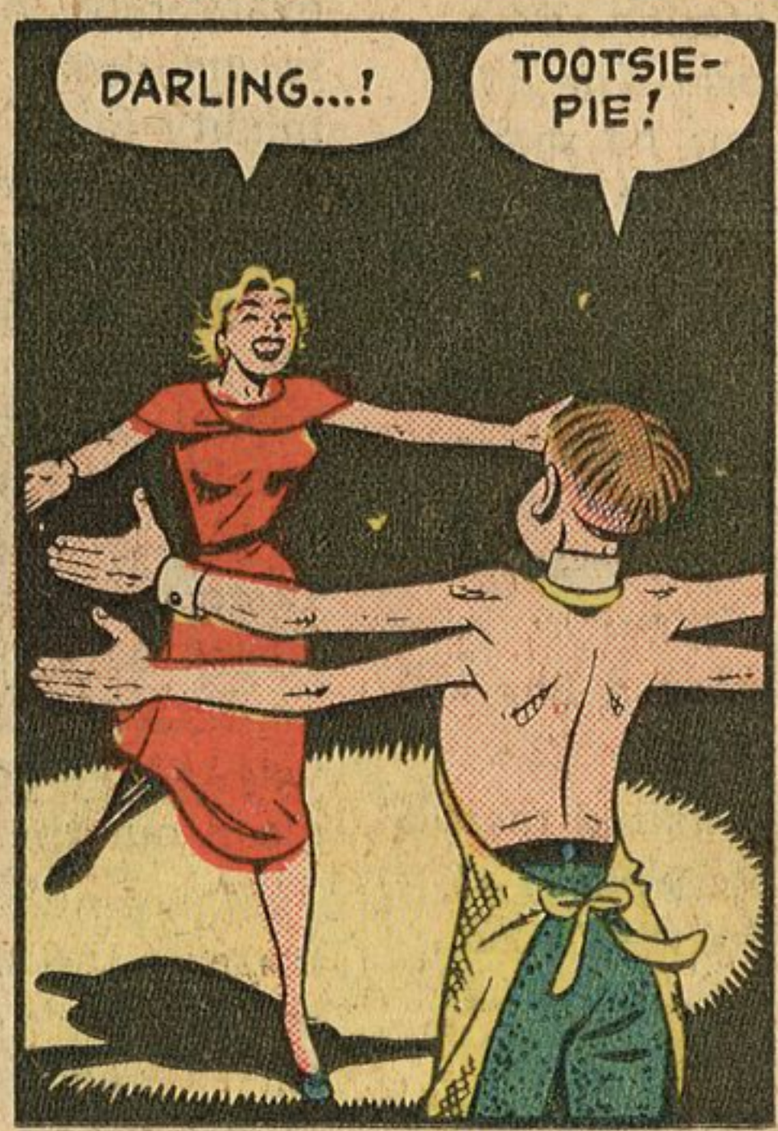
THAT DOUBLE-DECKER FREAK DONE IT APURPOSE! NOW I CAN'T READ THE NOTICE LIKE THE LAW SAYS I GOTTA!
HE'S INTERFERED WITH MY PLANS LONG ENOUGH! TAKE CARE OF HIM, BOYS... BUT GOOD!


TUT-TUT! MUSTN'T INTERFERE WITH THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS!
EEEAHHH!
GUGG!

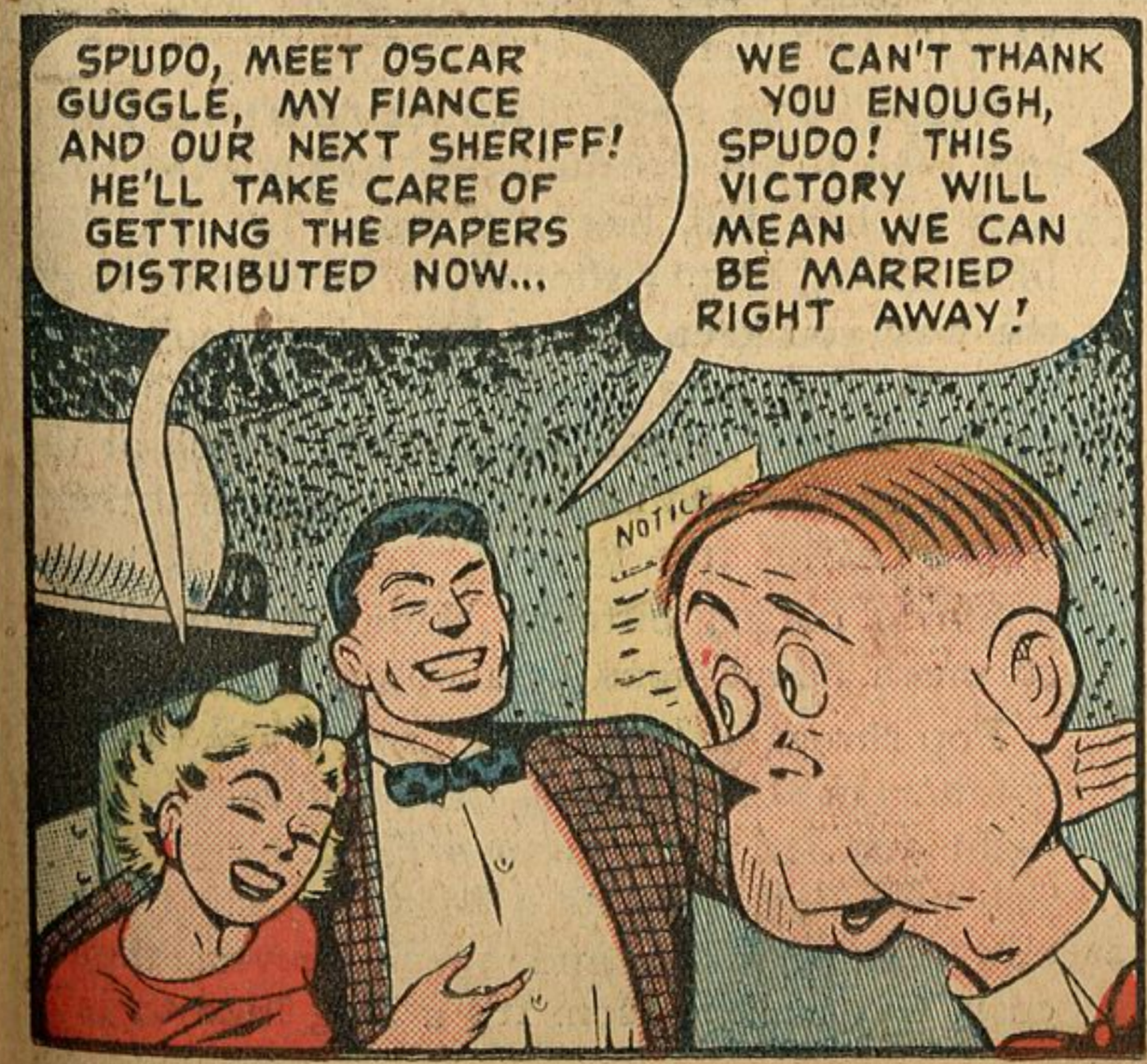
I DON'T LIKE YOUR TYPE, RATT! TRY SOME OF MINE!
OWOOCH! DO SOMETHING TO THAT MULTIPLE MENACE, YOU DOUGH-BRAINS! WHADDA I PAY YOU FOR?

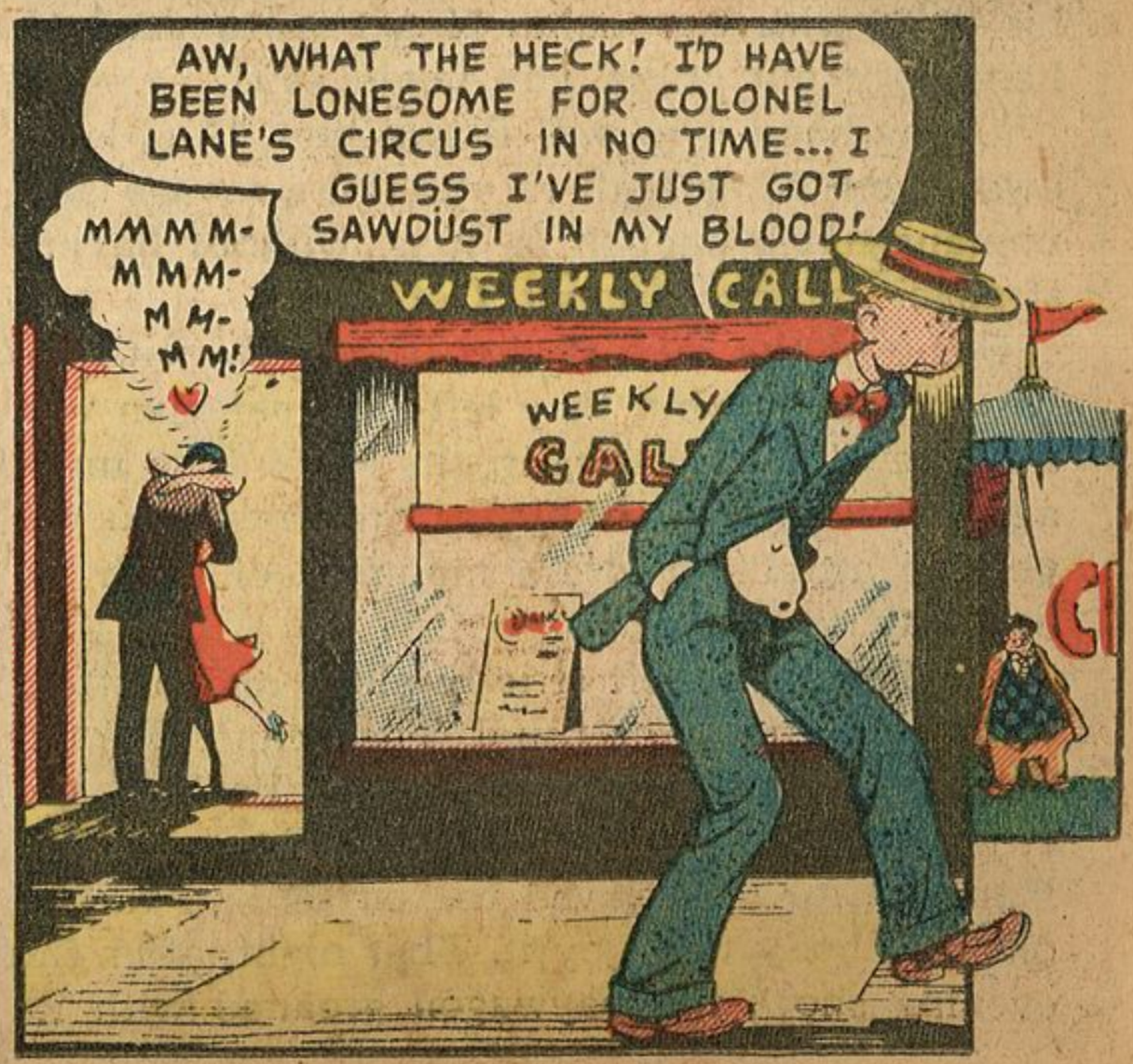

COLORFUL CHARACTERS, AREN'T THEY, ELLEN?
OH, SPUDO, YOU'RE MARVELOUS! AND SUCH A SENSE OF HUMOR!
CARMI


ISN'T IT NICE? THERE'S JUST ENOUGH JAWS TO GO AROUND!


DARLING...!
TOOTSIE-PIE!

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU CARED... ULP! HUH?
OSCAR, MY BELOVED!
ELLEN, SWEET!


SPUDO, MEET OSCAR GUGGLE, MY FIANCE AND OUR NEXT SHERIFF! HE'LL TAKE CARE OF GETTING THE PAPERS DISTRIBUTED NOW...
WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, SPUDO! THIS VICTORY WILL MEAN WE CAN BE MARRIED RIGHT AWAY!
NOTICE


AW, WHAT THE HECK! I'D HAVE BEEN LONESOME FOR COLONEL LANE'S CIRCUS IN NO TIME... I GUESS I'VE JUST GOT SAWDUST IN MY BLOOD!
MMMM-MMM-MM-MM!
WEEKLY CALL
WEEKLY CAL

CAT ACT

NOBODY liked Slawn, the lion tamer, from the day he made his appearance on the lot of Ganger Brothers Circus. But most of all, old Pop Diston, the one-armed boss canvasman, disliked the tawny, sneering Slawn. Slawn had asked for it from the start.

His big cat, the lion, Mogul, was delivered in the morning and unloaded in the waiting cage. Members of the troupe stood around, admiring the lion, commenting on his size and ferocity. Most of them stayed a respectful distance back from the bars. Only old Pop sauntered up and leaned against the wagon wheel, staring. Presently he made a throaty, purring noise. The lion snarled, showing immense fangs, but he made no move to swipe a clawed forepaw out at the man.

"He's okay," Pop said, turning away. "The kind of big cat we need. He's got the fire and fury and the wildness in him, but he's got sense too. Lots of people don't think lions have sense but they have. They know when to show off and when to behave."

"Who asked your opinion?" snarled a harsh voice.

The group whirled. A big, yellow-haired man stood inside the cat tent entrance, glaring at them with yellowish, ferile eyes. In that flash, everyone knew that they were face to face with Slawn, the newly hired lion tamer.

"I guess nobody," Pop said mildly, scratching his neck with one hand. "I get sorta used to handing it out gratis, you might say."

"Don't hand it to me," Slawn spat. "And keep away from Mogul, all of you. He's savage and unmanageable enough as it is, without having strangers poking around. Get out."

Some of the men studied their fists with reluctant interest, but they left. The cat man was a figure of prominence in the show. The manager would not look kindly on having an expensive attraction lose a mouthful of teeth his first day on the lot.

So Slawn was left strictly alone and matters went along much as usual. Then came Rampo City, the richest date on the year's booking, the city they depended upon to pay a fat profit. For Rampo City folks loved the circus and turned out in a body to enjoy it. That night, after the evening show, the paywagon groaned with its load of money and picked helpers were detailed to help count the proceeds.

It was past midnight when the trouble came. First there was a wild yell of alarm, the sound of running feet and a rumbling snarl. A moment later the head of the great lion, Mogul, poked into the door of the paywagon, left open for ventilation.

Anderson, the cashier, saw Mogul first and yelped, "Oh, my gosh, the lion's loose. He's coming in."

Ganger, the owner, cried, "Out the back door, everybody. And move easy. He can't really spring down from there but he can come in mighty fast."

Mogul snarled savagely and a moment later the back door of the wagon slammed. The lion drew back his head, snarled again and padded off into the darkness. A moment later Slawn appeared in the doorway. He peered in, laughed harshly and leaped inside. He was tucking rolls of bills into a small bag he carried when Pop Diston said mildly, from his seat behind the wagon safe, "Quite an act you and Mogul put on, Slawn. He scares everybody out of the paywagon on a good night and you come along and clean out the cash box."

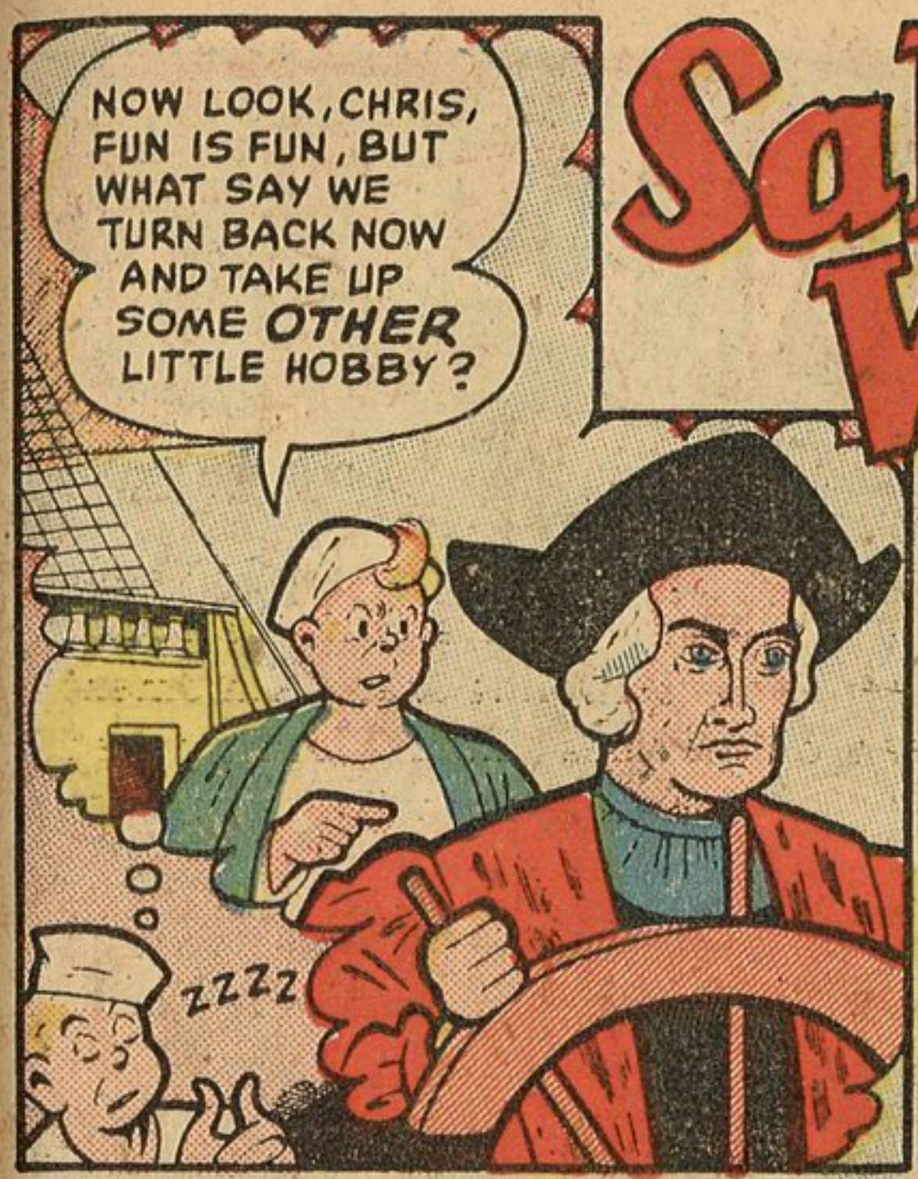
Slawn whirled, clawing at his pocket, but he froze at the sight of the small pistol resting easily on Pop's crossed knees and centered on the thief's middle. "You . . ." Slawn cried thickly. "Why didn't you run, too? Don't you know Mogul's a killer?"

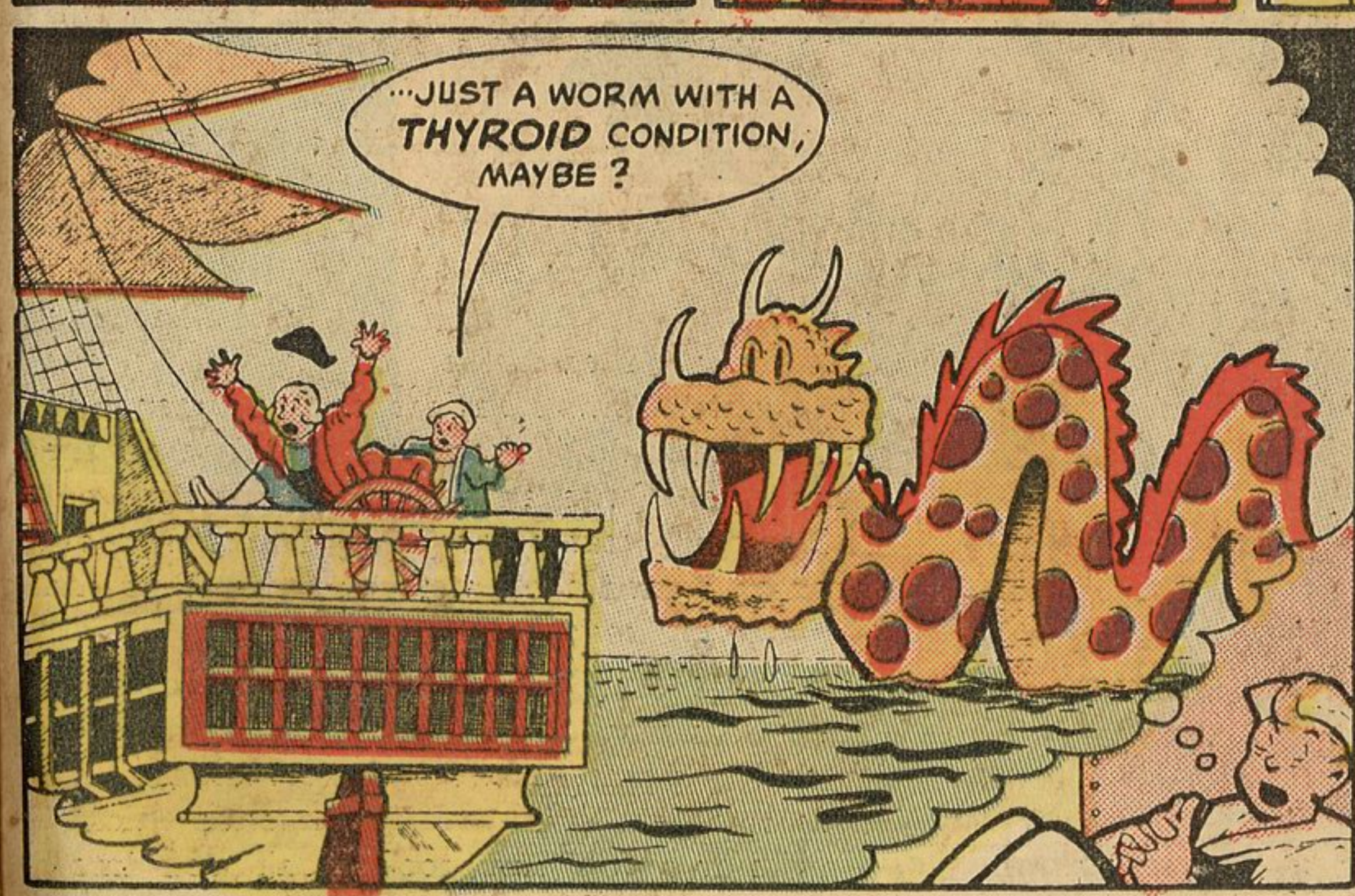
"Nope," Pop said. "That cat ain't no killer, son. Like I said that first day, he's got the wildness in him but he's got sense, too. No lion likes having blanks shot off in his face so that's the way you keep one at bay when you're putting on your act. They don't like it but they can't get away, there. Mogul took a look at the gun in my lap and he wanted no part of it there, where he was free to go."

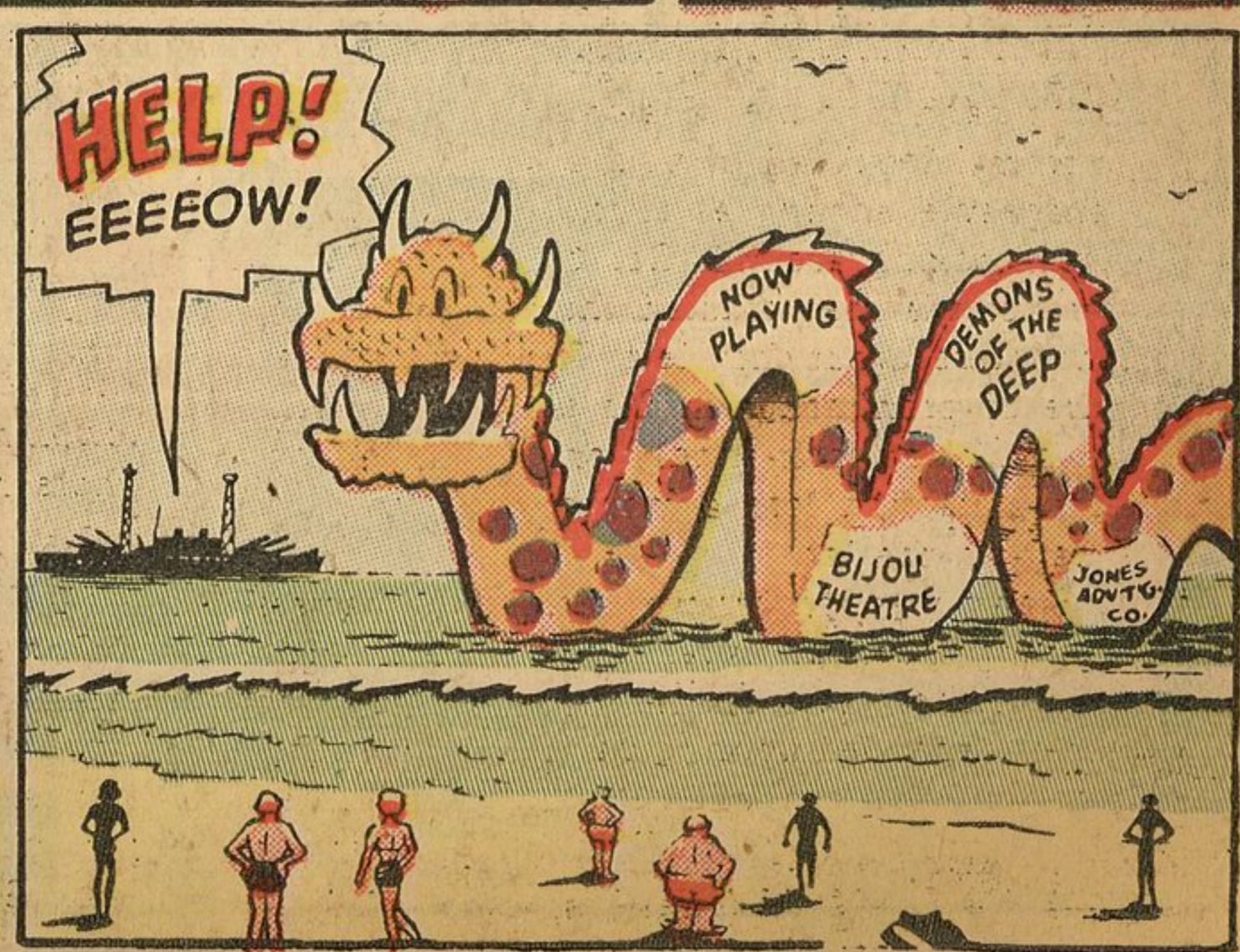
Slawn cursed bitterly. "How do you know so much about lions, you nosey old fool?"

Pop shrugged. "I ought to, son. I was the best cat-man in the business, till I got reckless one night and fed an arm to a Bengal tiger. Now you take tigers, there's a beast you can't figure out, nohow. Lions and sneak-thieves, they're easy. Get walking, son. It's a long hike to jail."

Salty WATERS







THE BARKER

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AS YOU CAN ALL SEE, THIS AMAZING BAREBACK RIDING PERFORMANCE CALLS FOR SUPPLE LIMBS, INCREDIBLE SKILL, THE VITALITY OF YOUTH...! HUH...!

YOUTH, HE SAYS! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!

HA! HA! HA!

Clay Nordling

AS THE WEALTHIEST COUPLE IN DUPVILLE TAKE AN AFTERNOON DRIVE...

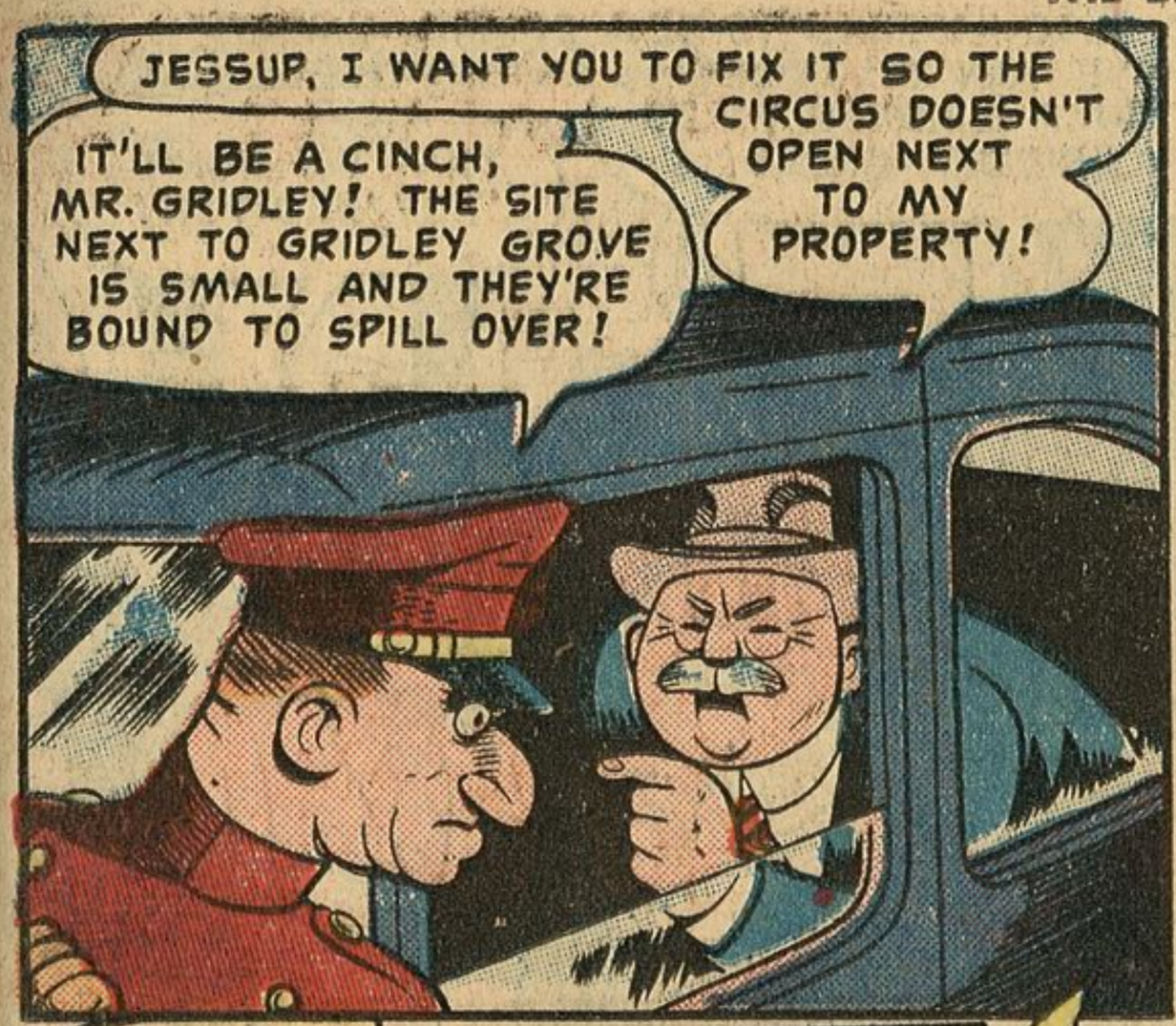
OH, STUART, A CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN! HOW EXCITING!

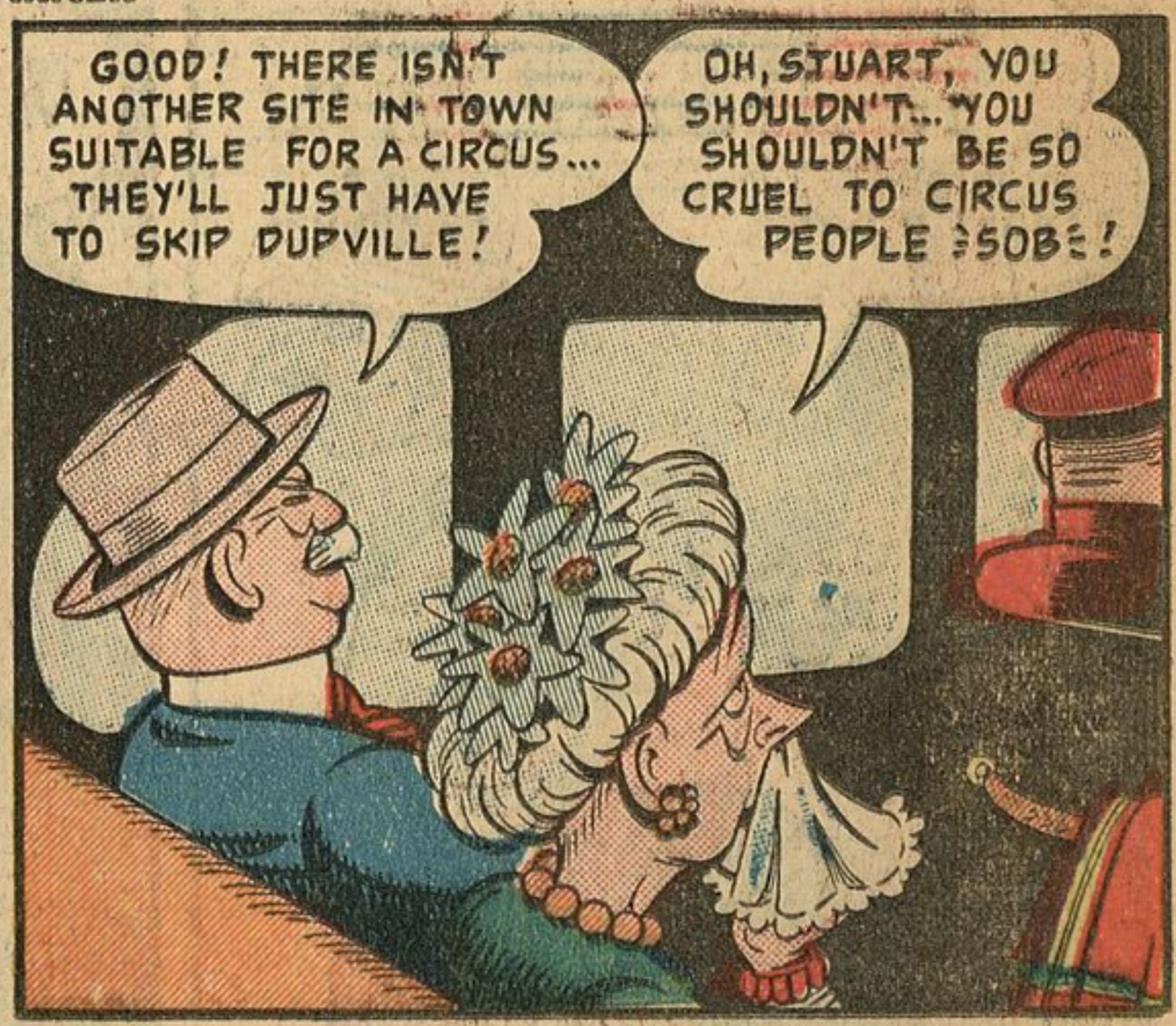
NONSENSE, MY DEAR! THE CIRCUS IS A LOW, COMMON FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT AND YOU KNOW IT!

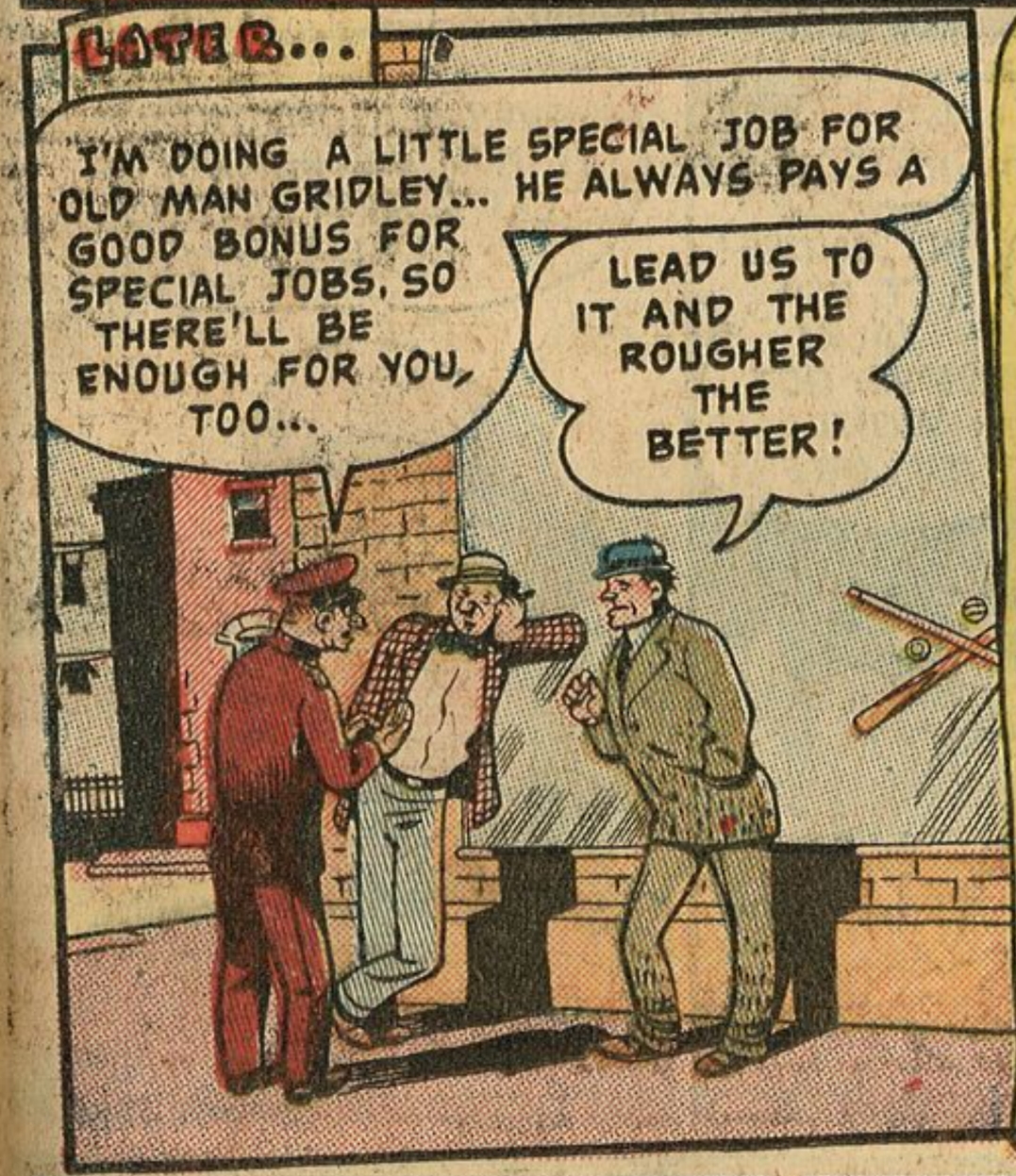
COL. LANE'S MAMMOTH CIRCUS ..... HERE ALL WEEK! RIGHT NEXT TO GRIDLEY GROVE

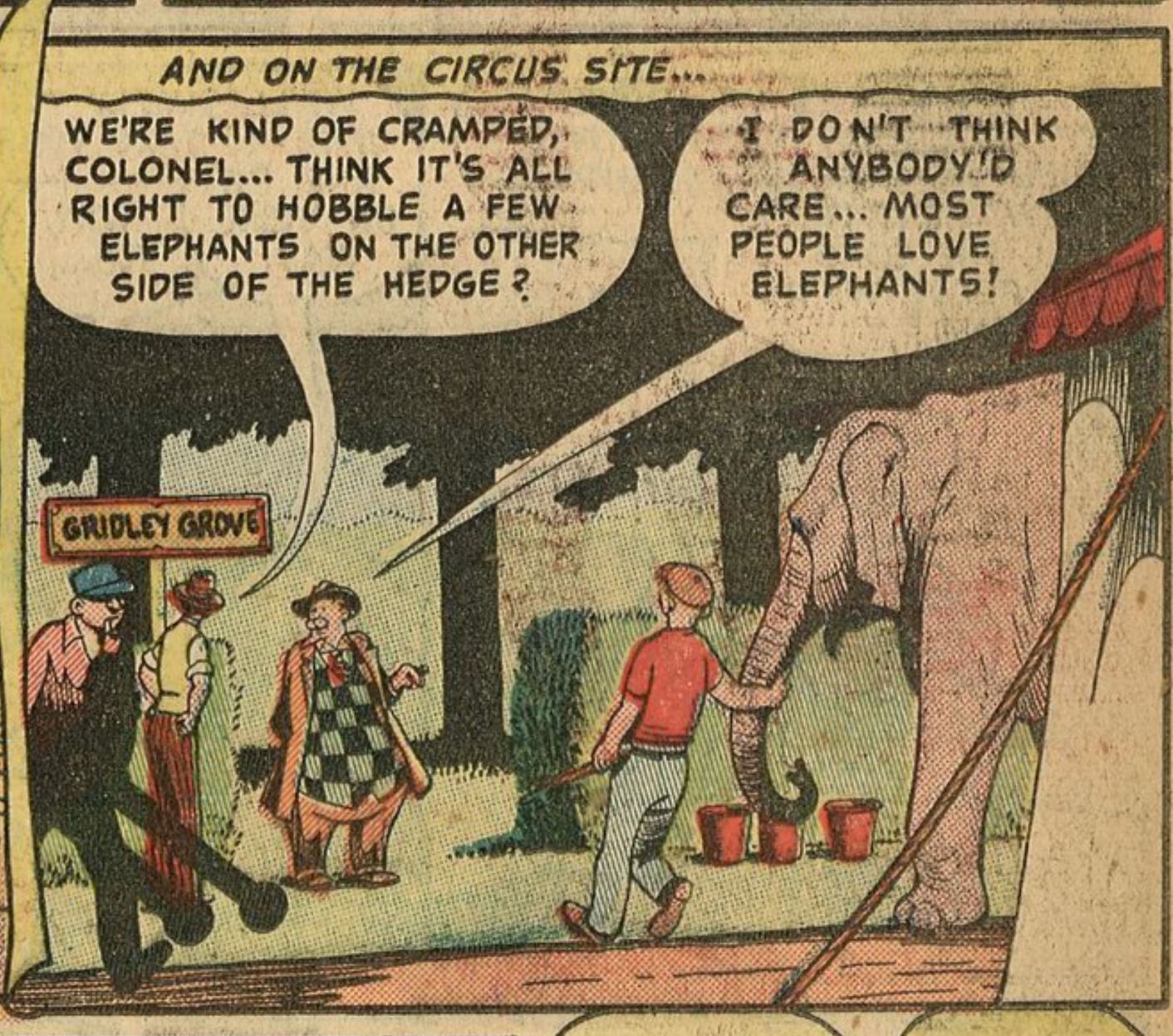
BUT...!

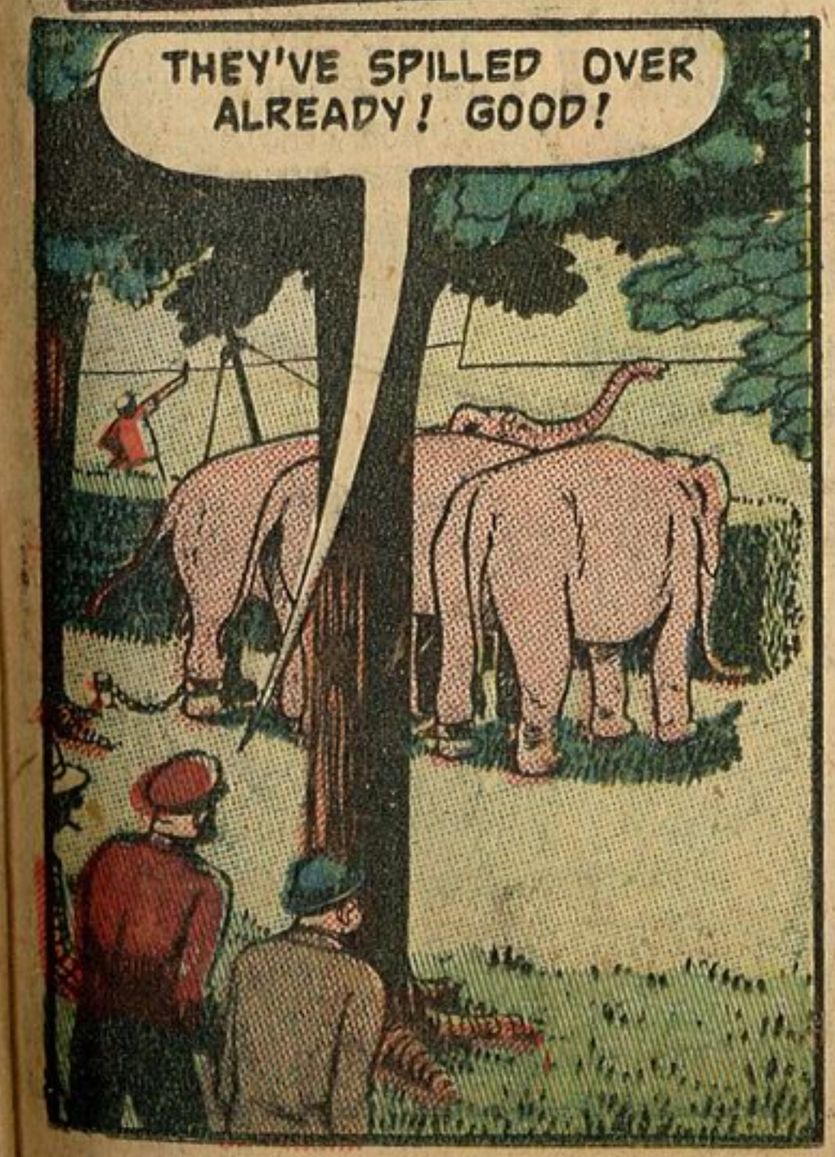
I WON'T HEAR ANOTHER WORD ABOUT IT! THE CIRCUS INDEED! PERHAPS I'D BETTER MAKE DOUBLY SURE YOU FORGET ABOUT IT!


JESSUP, I WANT YOU TO FIX IT SO THE CIRCUS DOESN'T OPEN NEXT TO MY PROPERTY!
IT'LL BE A CINCH, MR. GRIDLEY! THE SITE NEXT TO GRIDLEY GROVE IS SMALL AND THEY'RE BOUND TO SPILL OVER!


GOOD! THERE ISN'T ANOTHER SITE IN TOWN SUITABLE FOR A CIRCUS... THEY'LL JUST HAVE TO SKIP DUPVILLE!
OH, STUART, YOU SHOULDN'T... YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO CRUEL TO CIRCUS PEOPLE SOB!


LATER...
I'M DOING A LITTLE SPECIAL JOB FOR OLD MAN GRIDLEY... HE ALWAYS PAYS A GOOD BONUS FOR SPECIAL JOBS, SO THERE'LL BE ENOUGH FOR YOU, TOO...
LEAD US TO IT AND THE ROUGHER THE BETTER!

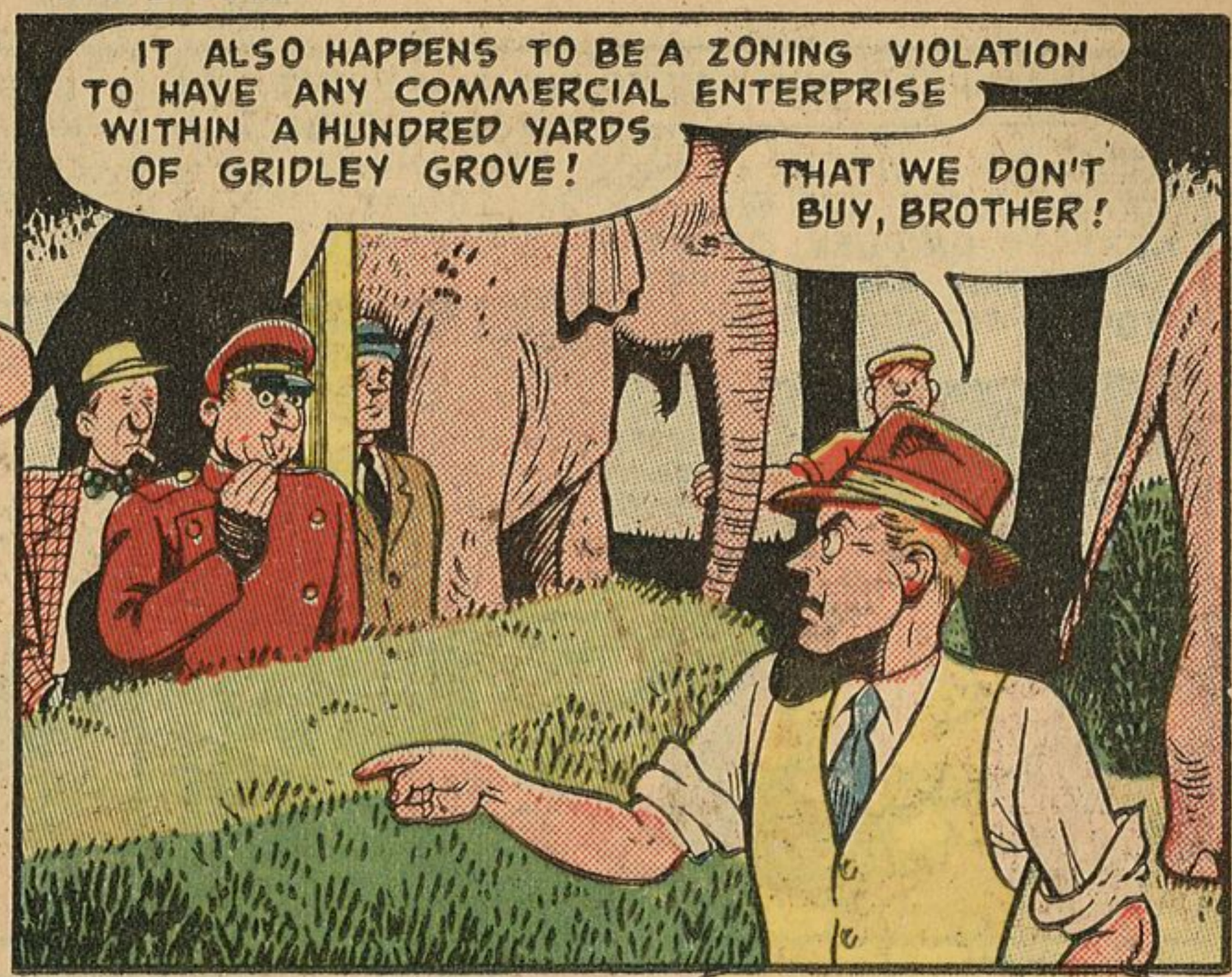

AND ON THE CIRCUS SITE...
WE'RE KIND OF CRAMPED, COLONEL... THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT TO HOBBLE A FEW ELEPHANTS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HEDGE?
I DON'T THINK ANYBODY'D CARE... MOST PEOPLE LOVE ELEPHANTS!
GRIDLEY GROVE


THEY'VE SPILLED OVER ALREADY! GOOD!

GET THOSE ELEPHANTS OFF MR. GRIDLEY'S PROPERTY, CHUMS!
BUT THEY WON'T DAMAGE ANYTHING...

SAVE THE ARGUMENTS! GET 'EM OFF!
TOUGH TALK, EH?

NEVER MIND, CARNIE! THEY'RE WITHIN THEIR RIGHTS! BOYS!

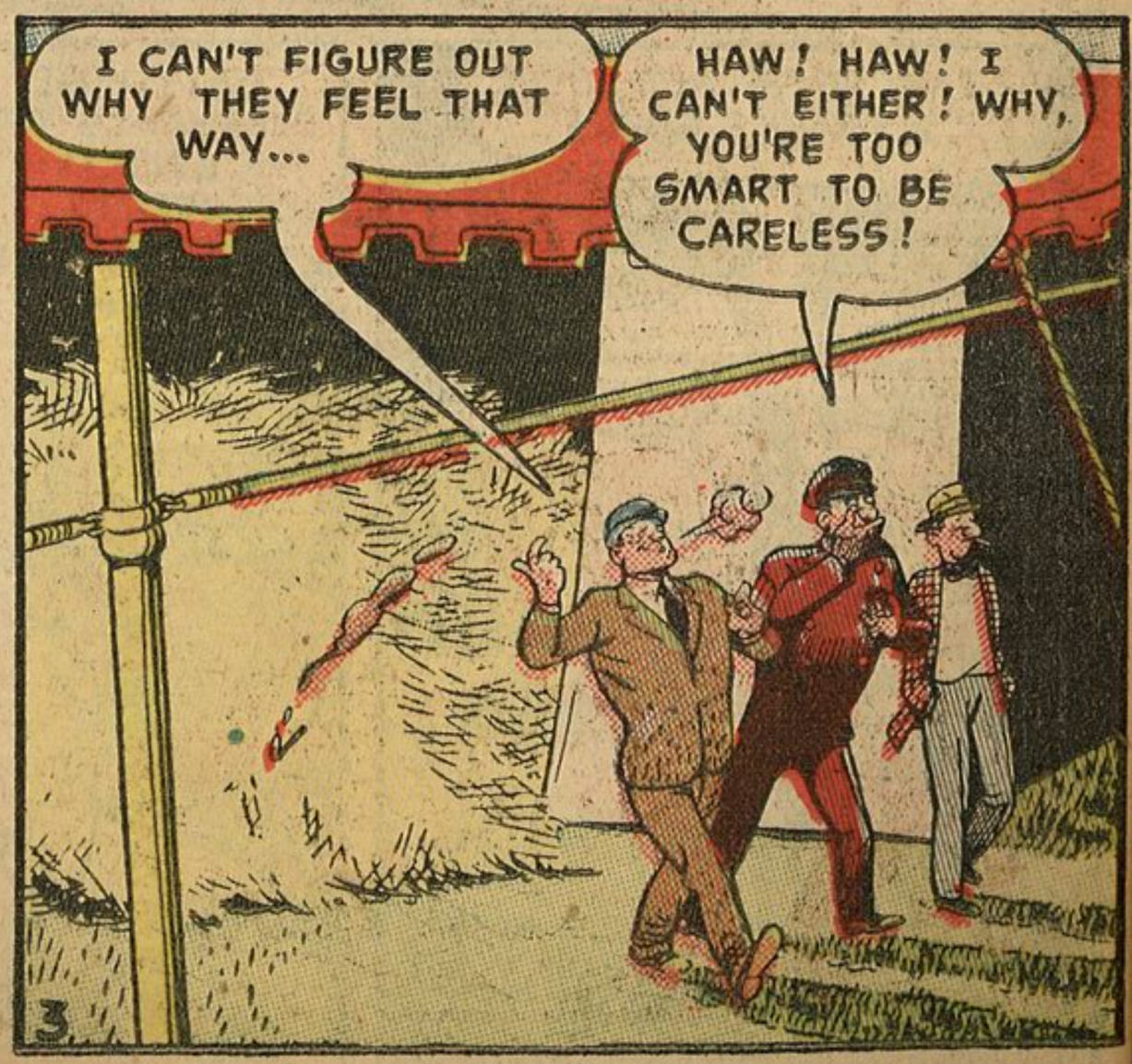

IT ALSO HAPPENS TO BE A ZONING VIOLATION TO HAVE ANY COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE WITHIN A HUNDRED YARDS OF GRIDLEY GROVE!
THAT WE DON'T BUY, BROTHER!

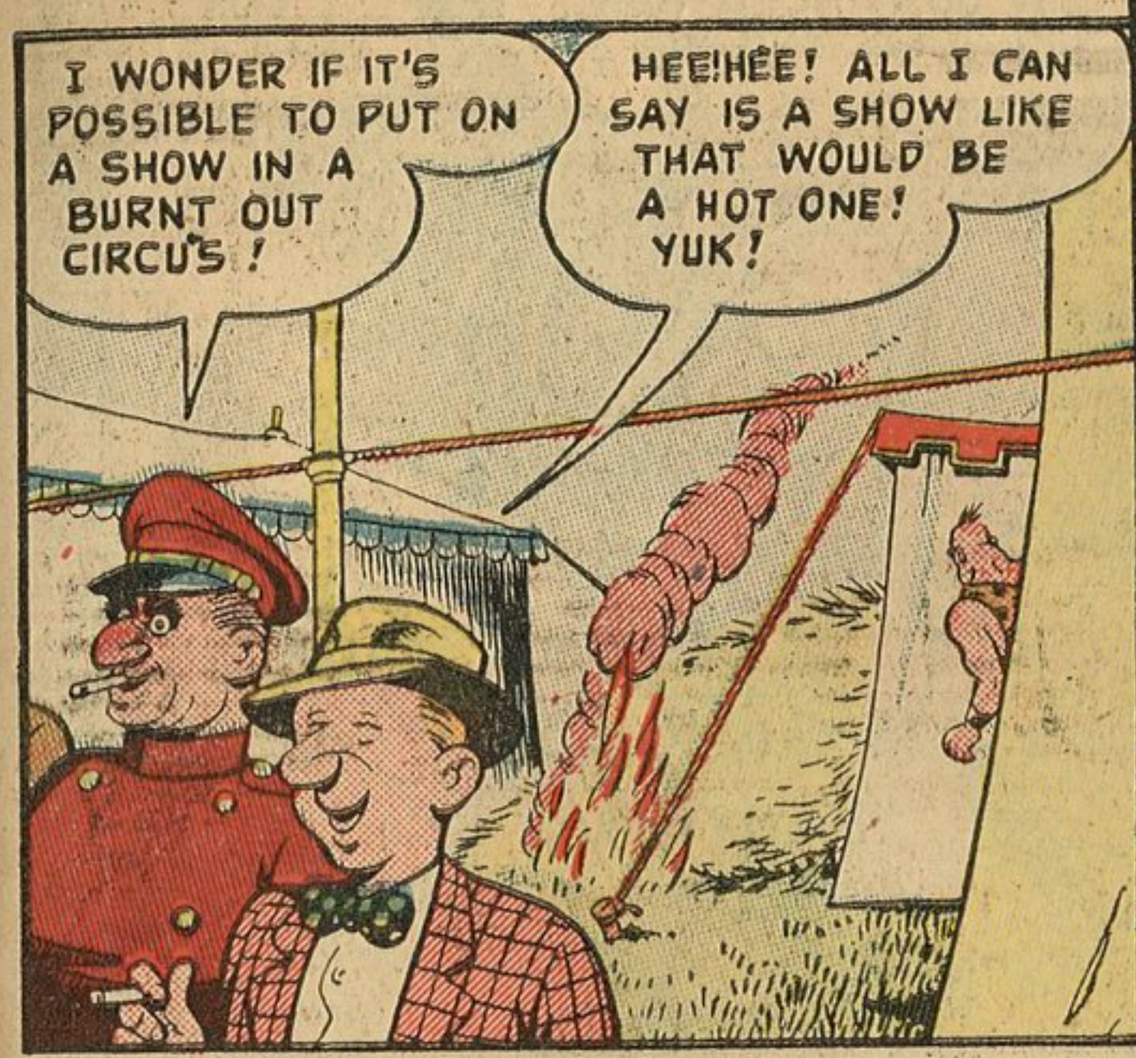
IT SO HAPPENS WE LOOKED INTO VIOLATION POSSIBILITIES WHEN WE LEASED THE SITE... NOW BEAT IT OR CALL THE COPS TO PROVE WE'RE WRONG!
TSK-TSK... YOU'VE GOT NO IMAGINATION AT ALL, CHUM... WE'LL DO NEITHER!

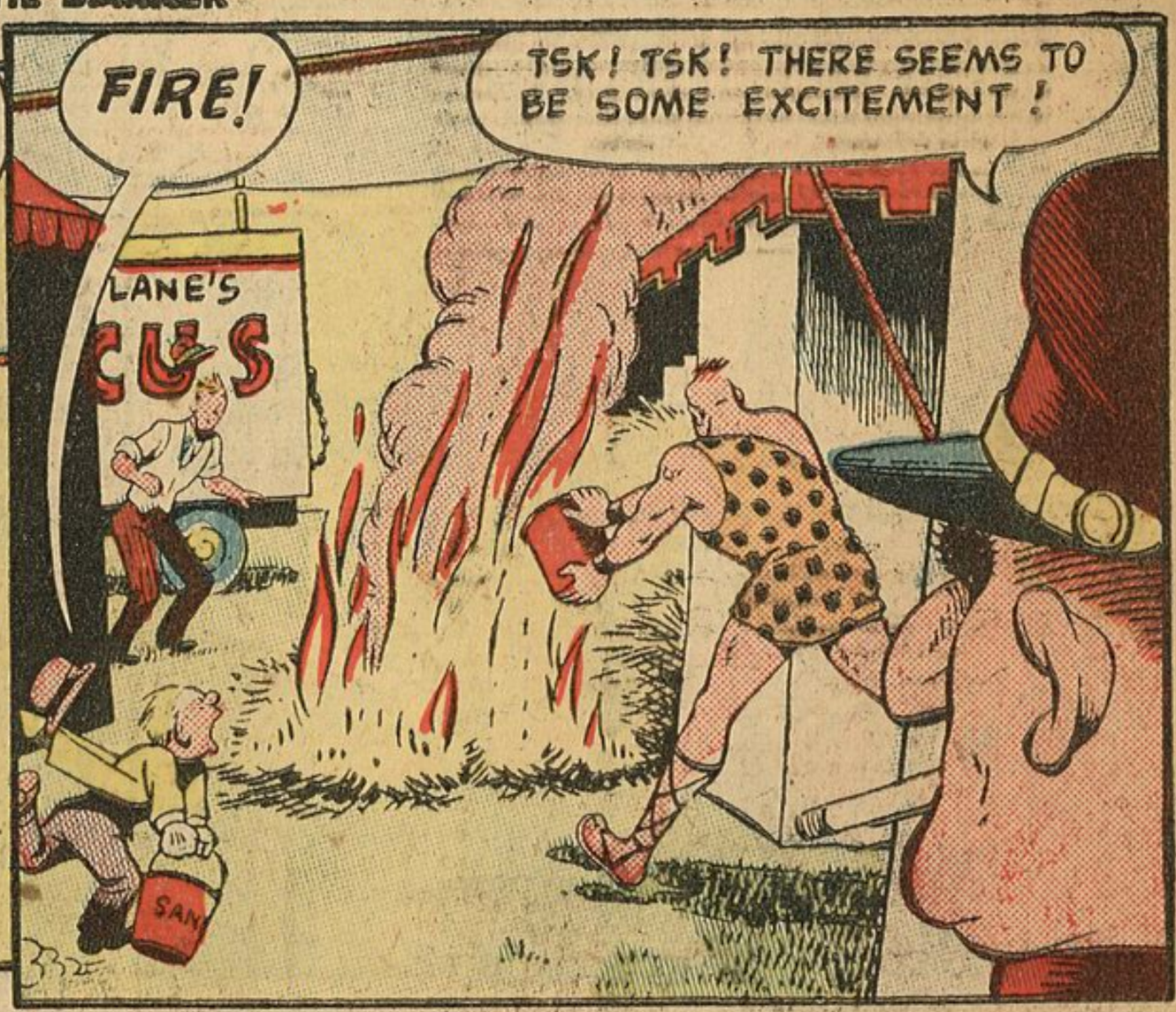
WE'LL SIMPLY TELL YOU ONCE TO TAKE YOUR CIRCUS AND BE ON YOUR WAY!
WHY, YOU...
NIX, CARNIE! LET HIM TALK! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

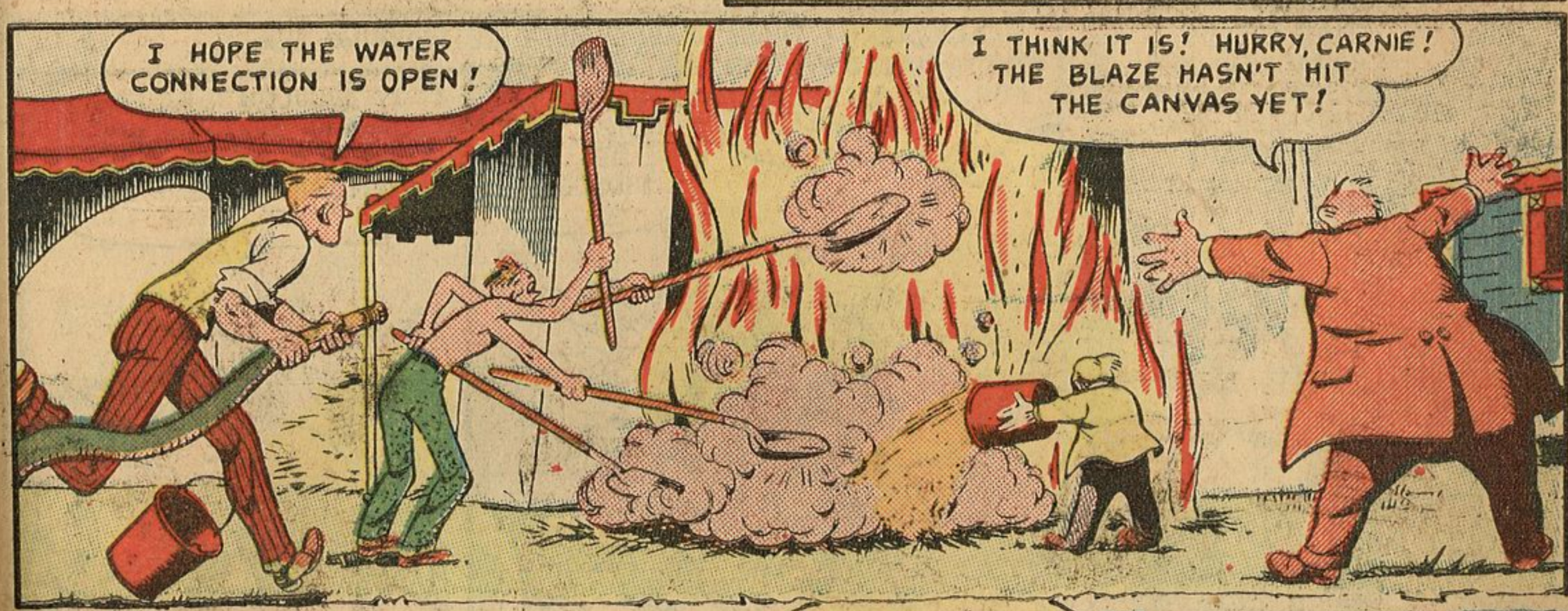
THEY MAY NOT KNOW IT BUT WE HAVE, TOO! LET'S SEE, WHAT'LL IT BE?

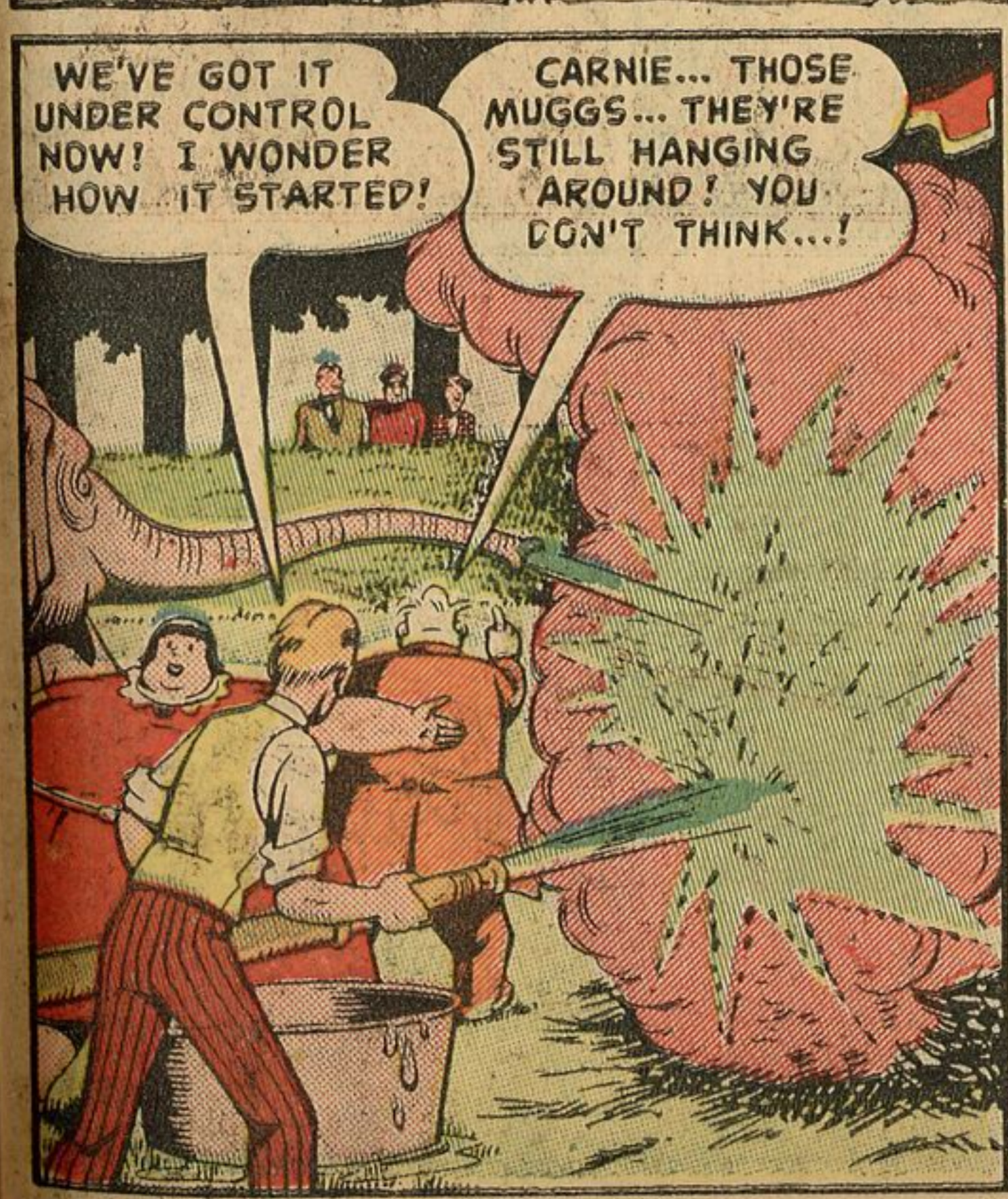
FUNNY THING THE WAY PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS TELLING ME I'M A CARELESS SMOKER!


I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY THEY FEEL THAT WAY...
HAW! HAW! I CAN'T EITHER! WHY, YOU'RE TOO SMART TO BE CARELESS!


I WONDER IF IT'S POSSIBLE TO PUT ON A SHOW IN A BURNT OUT CIRCUS!
HEE!HEE! ALL I CAN SAY IS A SHOW LIKE THAT WOULD BE A HOT ONE! YUK!


FIRE!
TSK! TSK! THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME EXCITEMENT!
LANE'S
CUS
SAN


I HOPE THE WATER CONNECTION IS OPEN!
I THINK IT IS! HURRY, CARNIE! THE BLAZE HASN'T HIT THE CANVAS YET!


WE'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL NOW! I WONDER HOW IT STARTED!
CARNIE... THOSE MUGGS... THEY'RE STILL HANGING AROUND! YOU DON'T THINK...!

I CERTAINLY DO! THOSE WEREN'T JUST IDLE THREATS THEY WERE MAKING!

YOU BOYS DIDN'T MENTION THAT YOUR LINE WAS ARSON!
WHAT'S THAT FANCY WORD HE USED?
ARSON!

TO ME IT SOUNDS LIKE SOME KIND OF INSULT!
I DIDN'T KNOW GORILLAS COULD BE INSULTED!

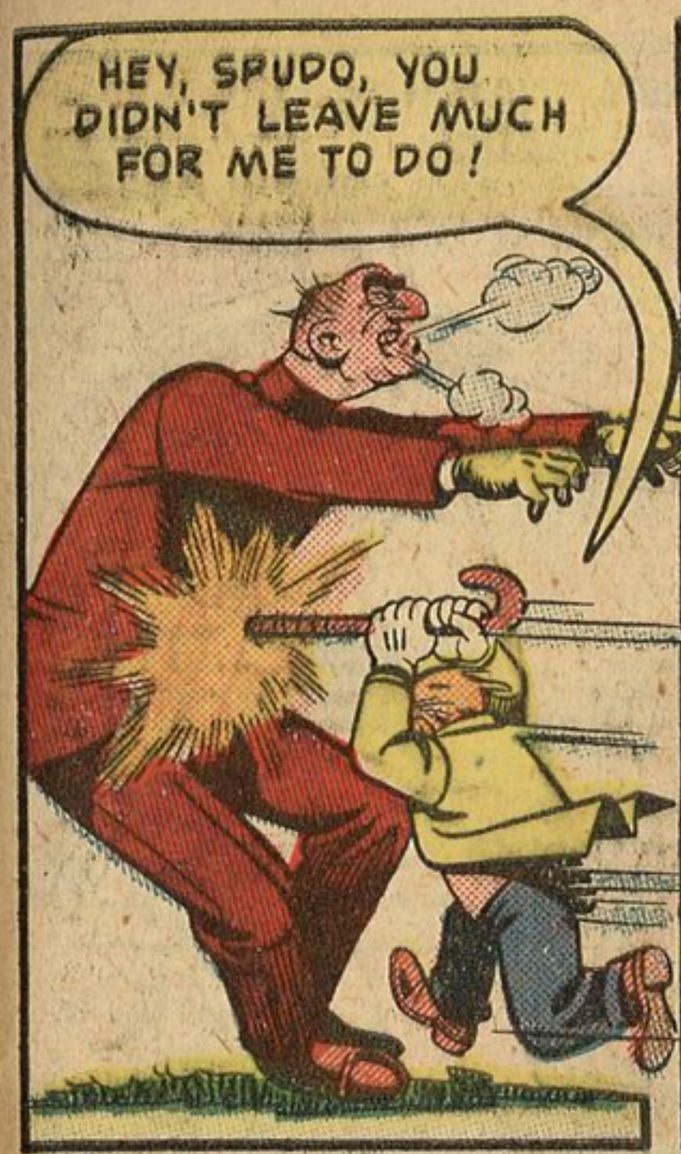
I'M CONVINCED NOW... YOU WANT TROUBLE!
I DON'T WANT IT...

BUT YOU'RE GETTING IT!
THIS CIRCUS CHARACTER IS MAKING LIKE A MUSCLE MAN... HE NEEDS TAKING APART!

BLACKJACKS! THOSE YAHOOS MUST BE WORKING FOR SOMEBODY WHO HAS IT IN FOR US! GET 'EM, BOYS!
DON'T ASK US TWICE!

IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR FOR YOU BOYS TO USE THESE... WE'RE ONLY GOING TO USE FISTS!
AWRK!

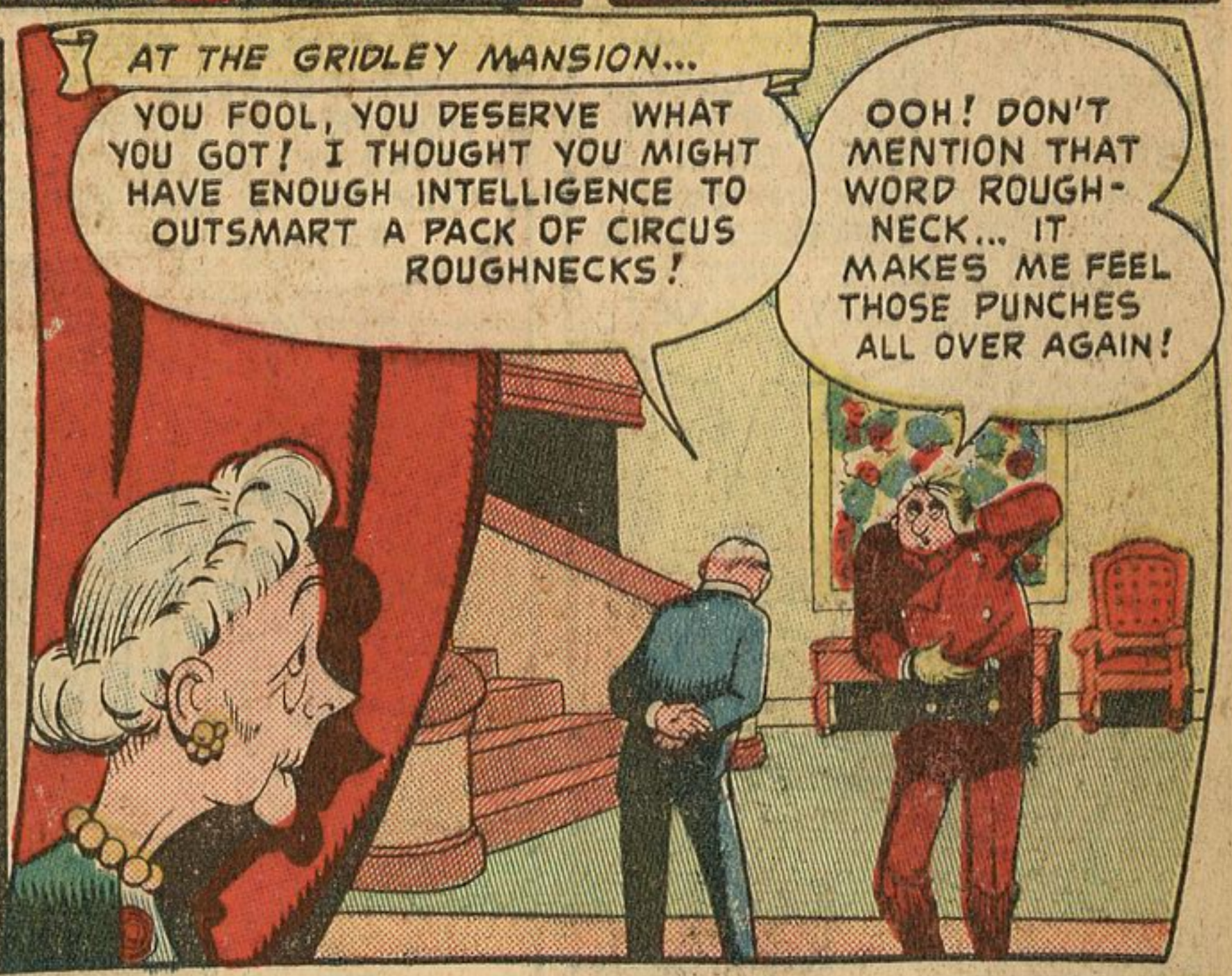
WE OUTNUMBER THEM... THAT'S NO FUN! LET'S GIVE THEM A BREAK AND PUT 'EM UP AGAINST ONE OF US AT A TIME!
ONE HE CALLS HIMSELF! WOOOMFF!

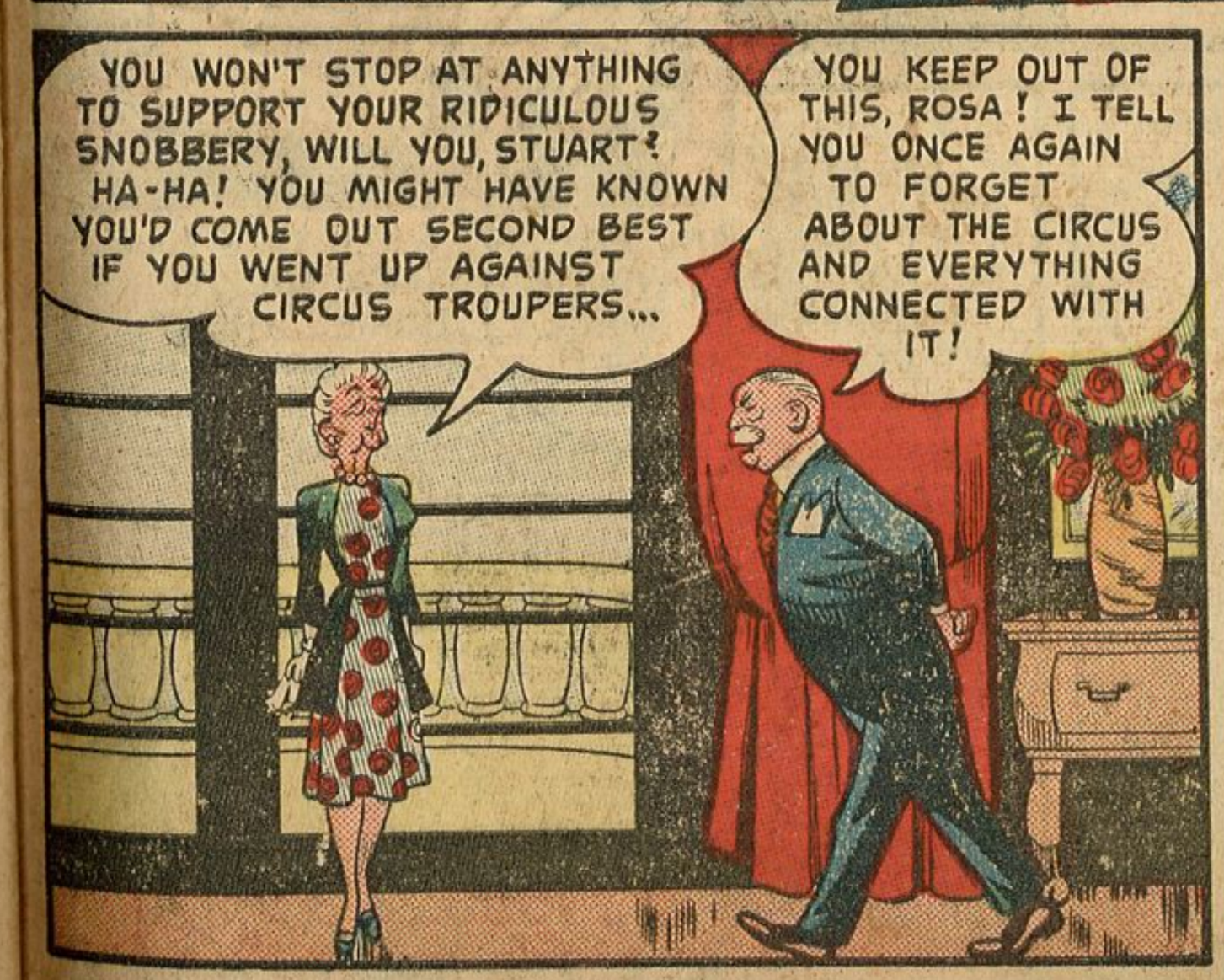

HEY, SPUDO, YOU DIDN'T LEAVE MUCH FOR ME TO DO!

THAT'S ALL THEY CAN TAKE, FELLERS... I'LL GIVE 'EM THE HEAVE-HO!

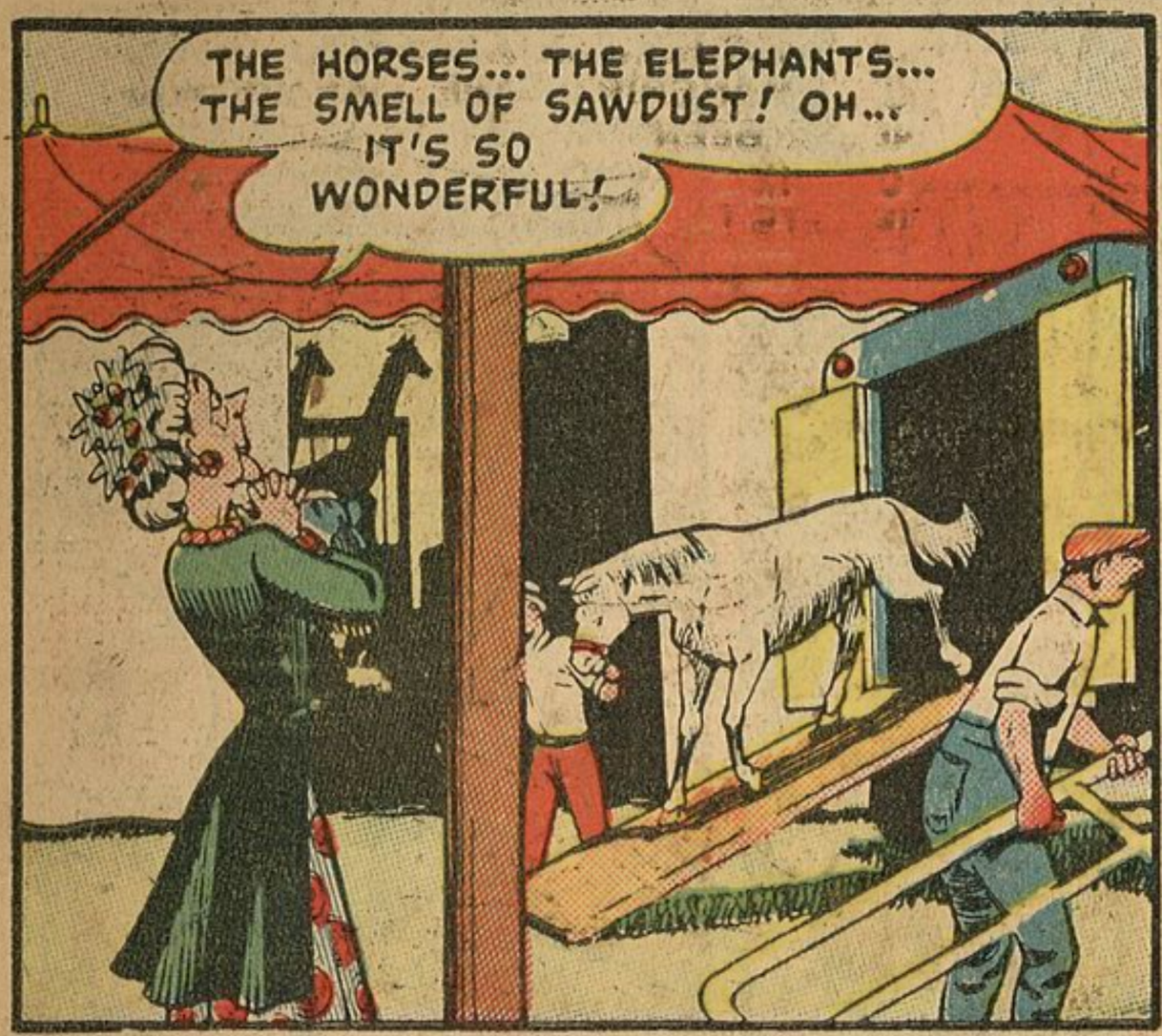
HOLD IT! WE DIDN'T FIND OUT WHO SENT THEM!
ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THAT...

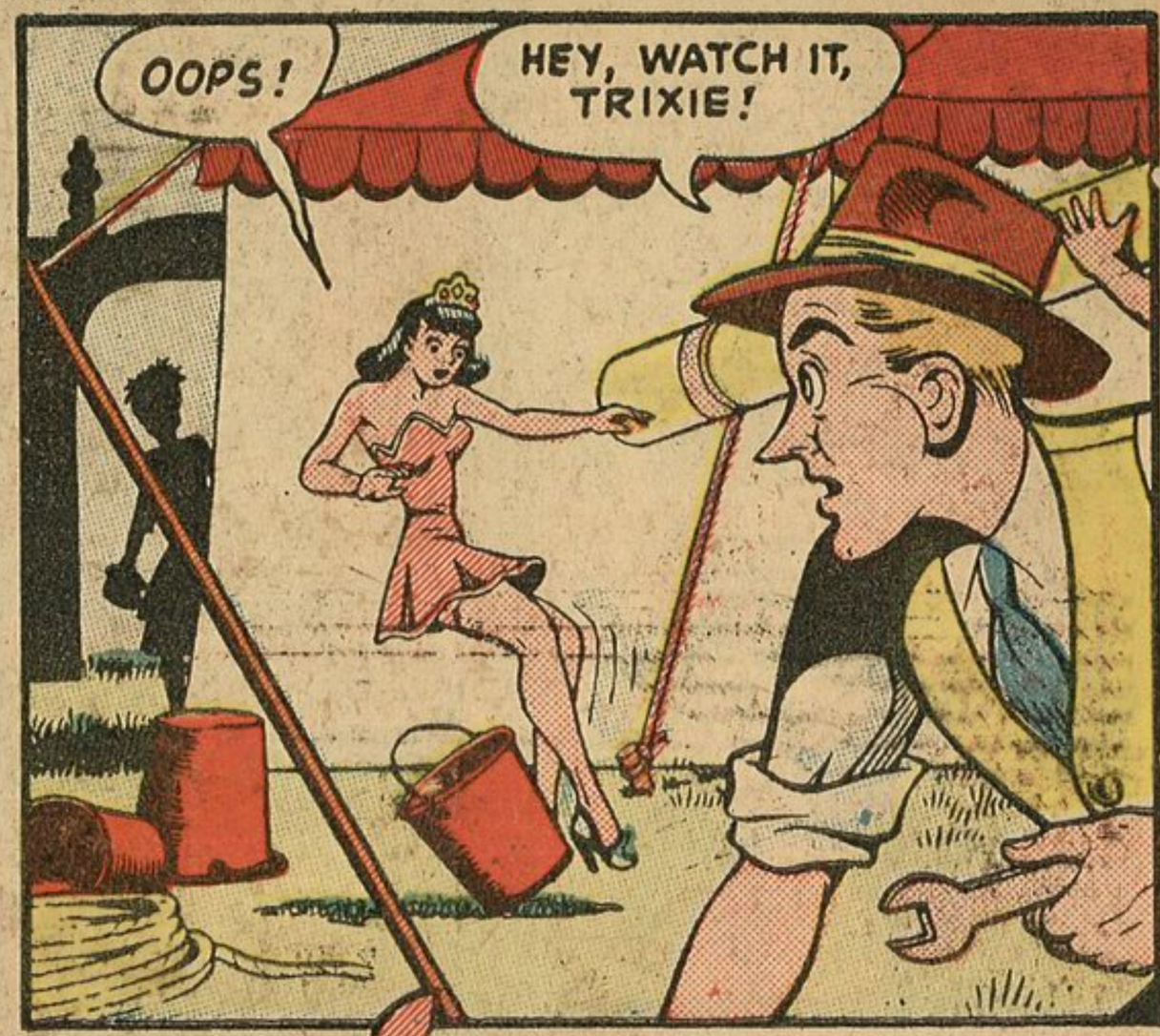
OH, WELL... IT WOULD TAKE TOO MUCH TIME TO CATCH THEM NOW! ANYWAY, IT'S A CINCH THEY WON'T COME BACK TO BOTHER US!
H'MMM... I GUESS SO... STILL I'D LIKE TO HAVE GRILLED THEM...


AT THE GRIDLEY MANSION...
YOU FOOL, YOU DESERVE WHAT YOU GOT! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE ENOUGH INTELLIGENCE TO OUTSMART A PACK OF CIRCUS ROUGHNECKS!
OOH! DON'T MENTION THAT WORD ROUGH-NECK... IT MAKES ME FEEL THOSE PUNCHES ALL OVER AGAIN!


YOU WON'T STOP AT ANYTHING TO SUPPORT YOUR RIDICULOUS SNOBBERY, WILL YOU, STUART? HA-HA! YOU MIGHT HAVE KNOWN YOU'D COME OUT SECOND BEST IF YOU WENT UP AGAINST CIRCUS TROUPERS...
YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS, ROSA! I TELL YOU ONCE AGAIN TO FORGET ABOUT THE CIRCUS AND EVERYTHING CONNECTED WITH IT!

I WON'T FORGET ABOUT IT, AND STUART CAN'T MAKE ME! HA-HA! I FOOLED HIM... HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW I WENT OUT!


THE HORSES... THE ELEPHANTS... THE SMELL OF SAWDUST! OH... IT'S SO WONDERFUL!


OOPS!
HEY, WATCH IT, TRIXIE!

OH... MY ANKLE! IT'S SPRAINED, CARNIE!
OF ALL THE ROTTEN LUCK... WITH THE SHOW GOING ON IN HALF AN HOUR, OUR BEST RIDER GETS HURT! EASY, TRIXIE!

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THAT DOGGONE FIRE, BUCKETS WOULDN'T BE STREWN ALL OVER THE PLACE! I'LL HELP YOU TO YOUR DRESSING ROOM...

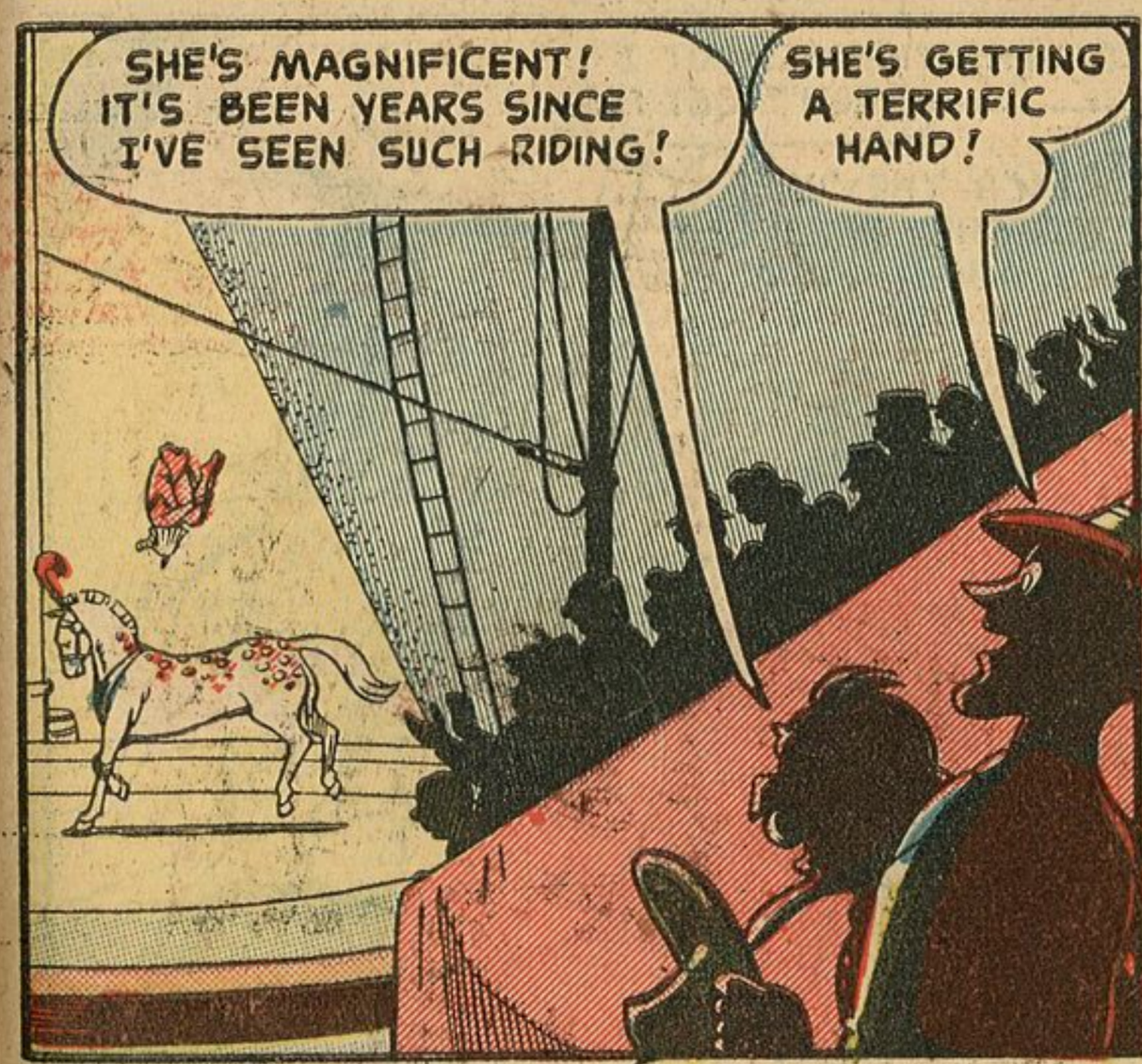
JUST BEFORE THE SHOW...
HI, TRIXIE! FEELING BETTER?

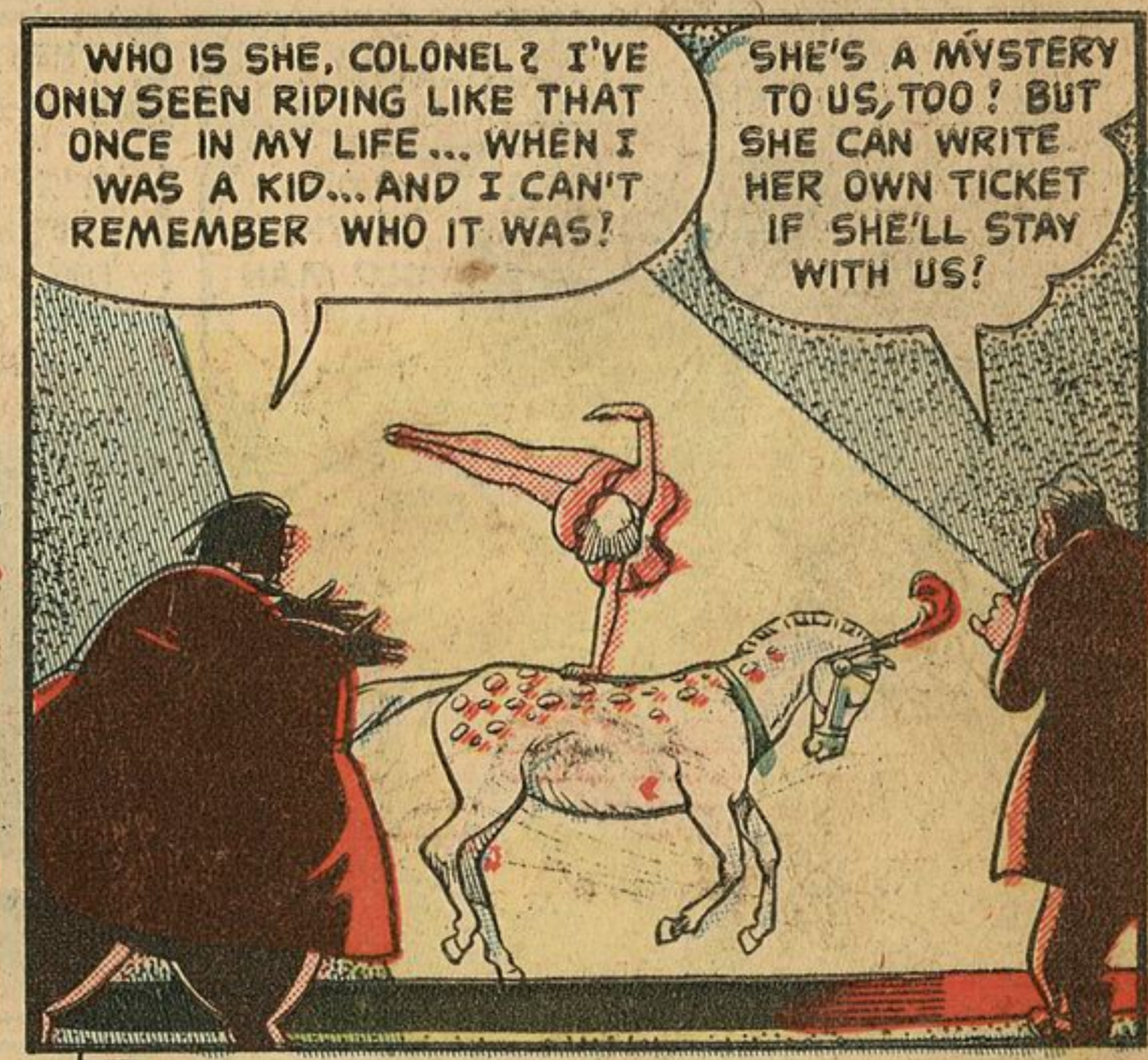
NOT WELL ENOUGH TO RIDE... BUT I'VE GOT A PINCH HITTER!
HMM... COULD BE... BUT WHY THE MYSTERIOUS VEIL?

IT'S PART OF THE DEAL! SHE'LL RIDE IN MY PLACE AND DO BETTER THAN I WOULD ... I GUARANTEE THAT... BUT ONLY IF SHE CAN GO ON IN A VEIL...
WE'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT, TRIXIE... THE VEIL IDEA ISN'T A BAD ANGLE ... MIGHT INTRIGUE THE CUSTOMERS!

AS THE SHOW BEGINS...
I TOLD THE RINGMASTER TO PLAY UP THE MYSTERY TWIST ON THE NEW RIDER...
GOOD!

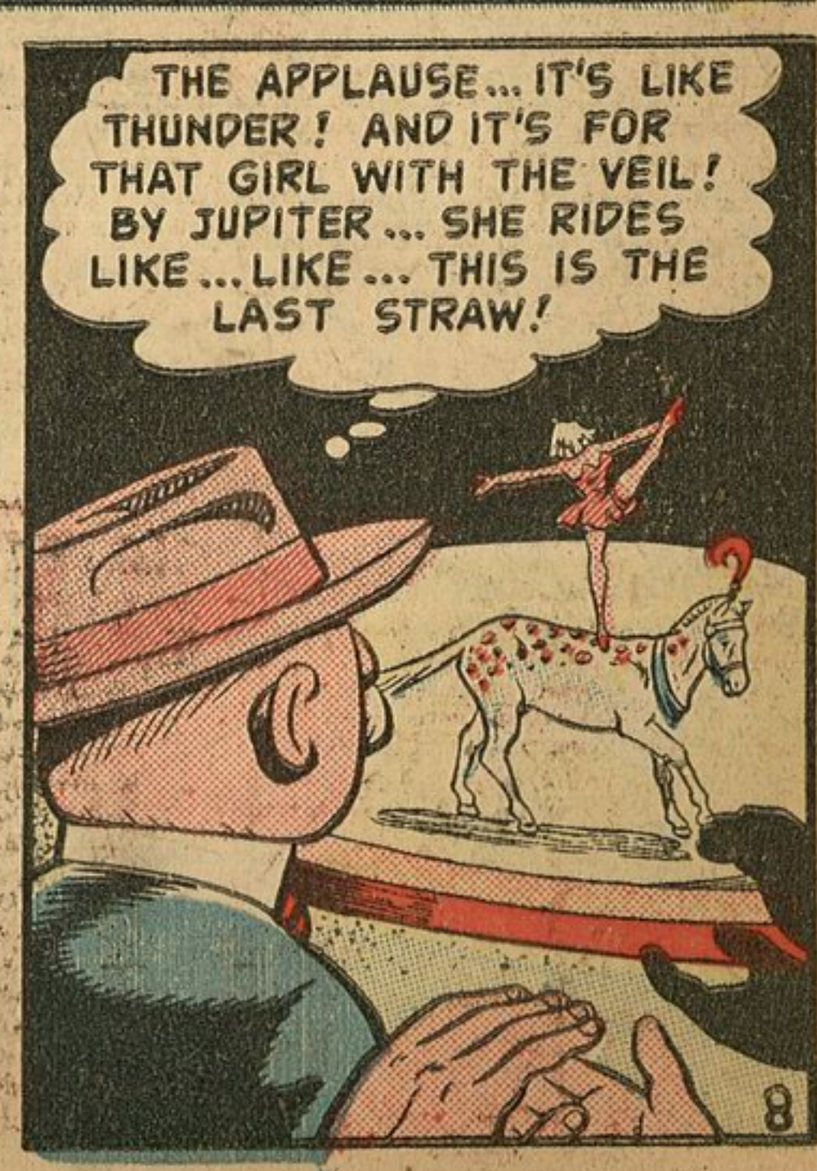
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU THE LADY OF MYSTERY... IN A DISPLAY OF THRILLING HORSEMANSHIP... THE LIKE OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN ON SIX CONTINENTS!
WE HOPE!

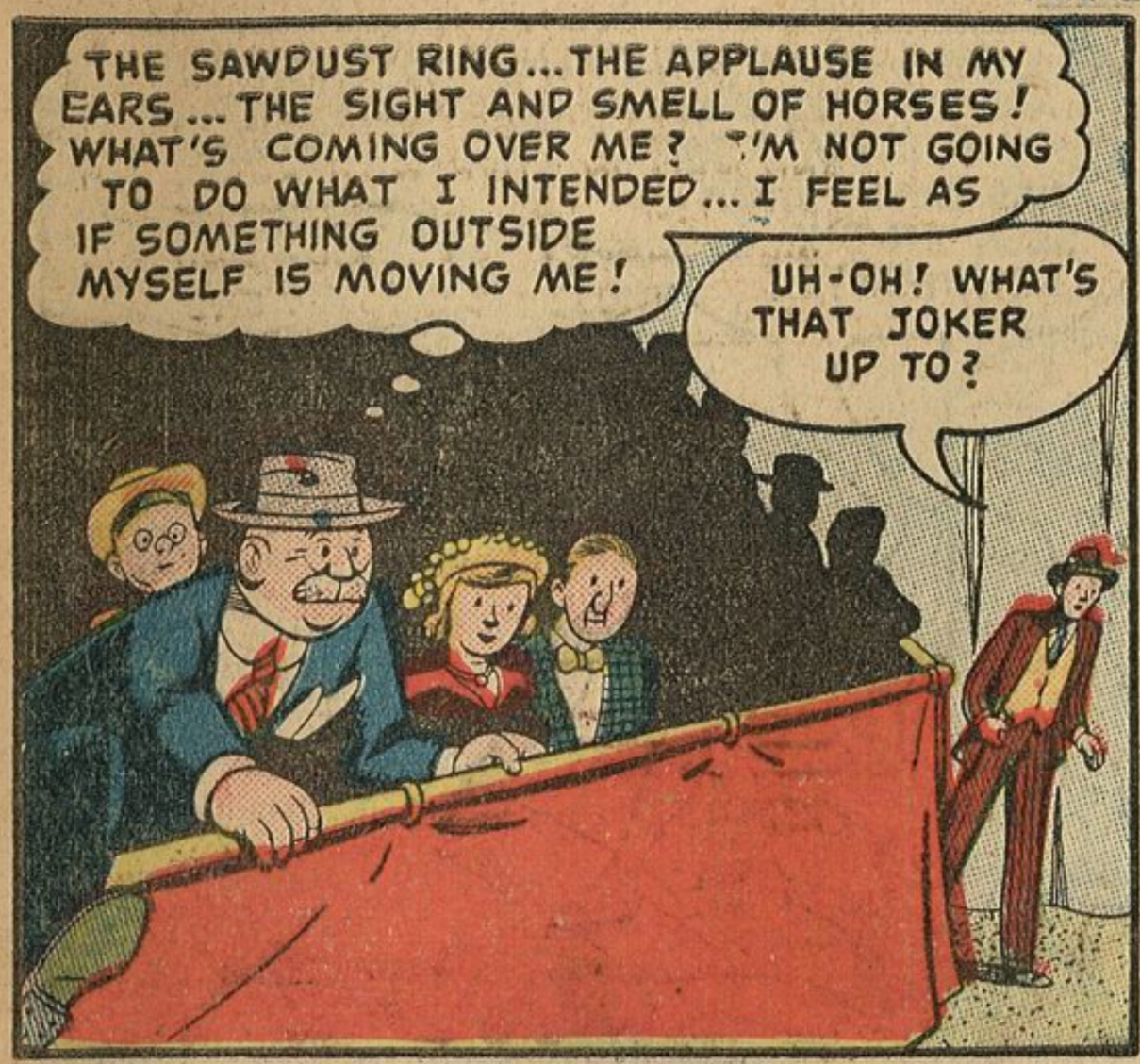

SHE'S MAGNIFICENT! IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I'VE SEEN SUCH RIDING!
SHE'S GETTING A TERRIFIC HAND!

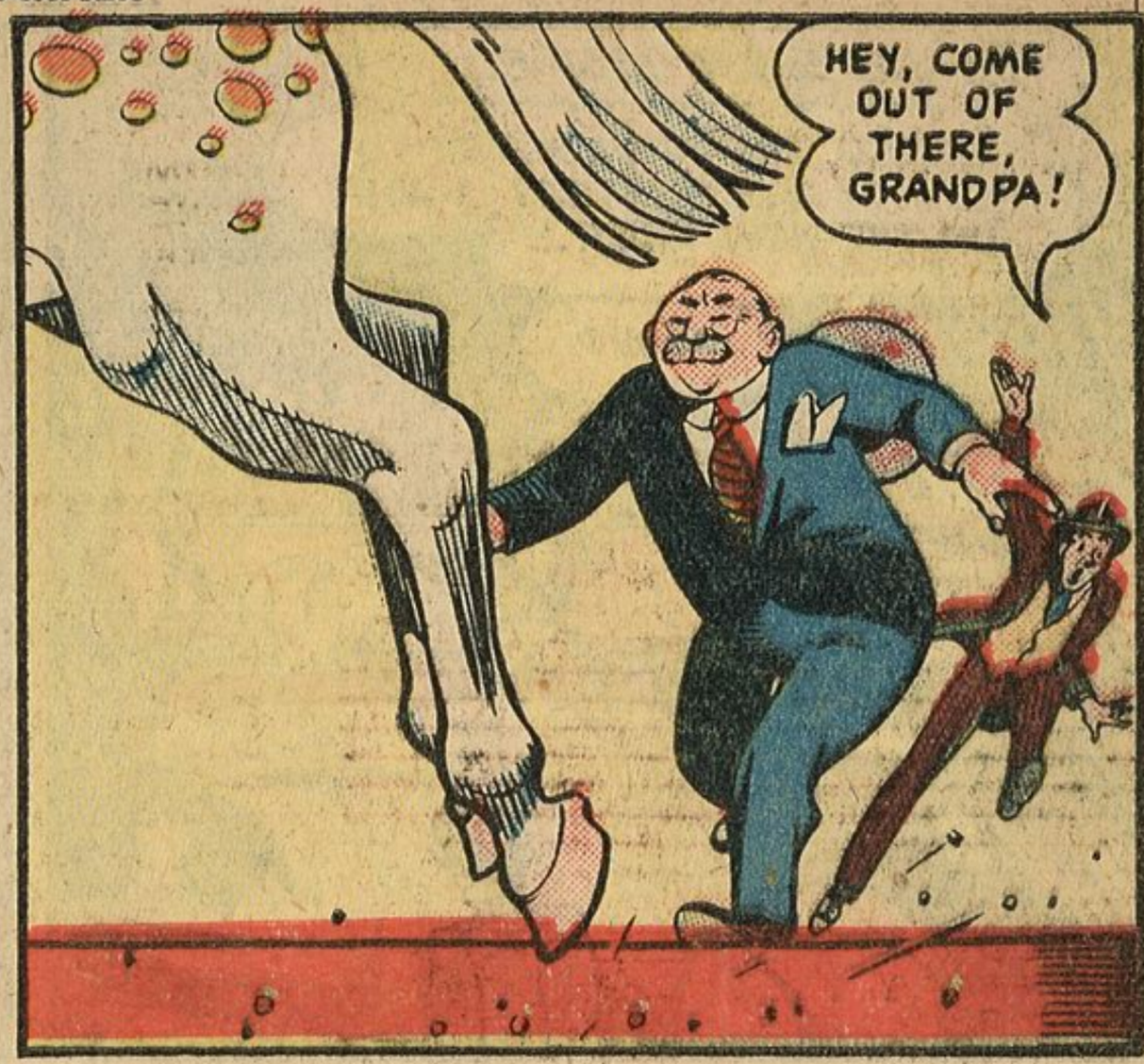

WHO IS SHE, COLONEL? I'VE ONLY SEEN RIDING LIKE THAT ONCE IN MY LIFE... WHEN I WAS A KID... AND I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO IT WAS!
SHE'S A MYSTERY TO US, TOO! BUT SHE CAN WRITE HER OWN TICKET IF SHE'LL STAY WITH US!

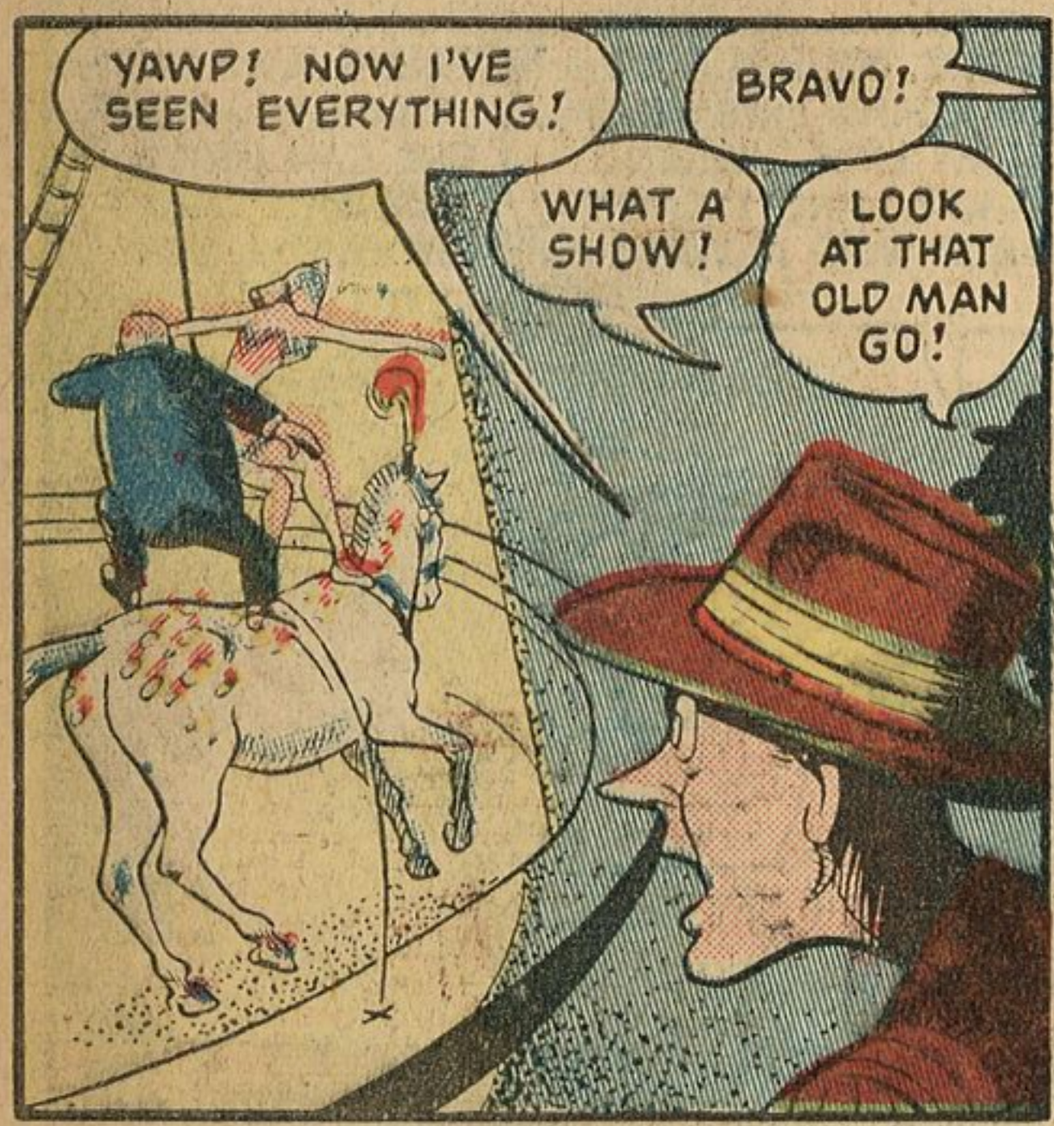
AT THAT MOMENT...
DISAPPEARED... JUST WALKED OUT OF THE HOUSE WITHOUT A WORD! SHE MUST BE HERE...

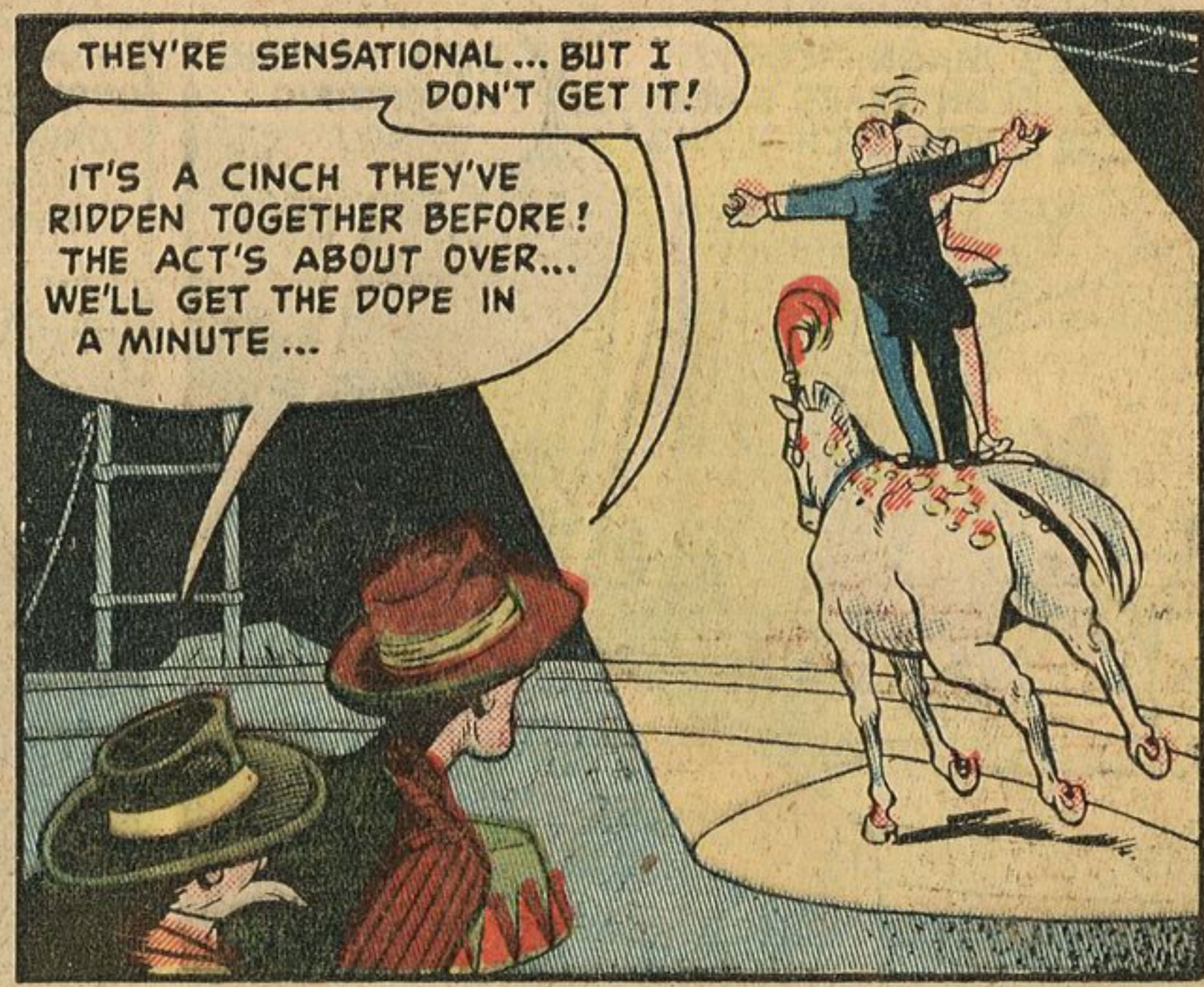
IT'S LIKE LOOKING FOR A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK!

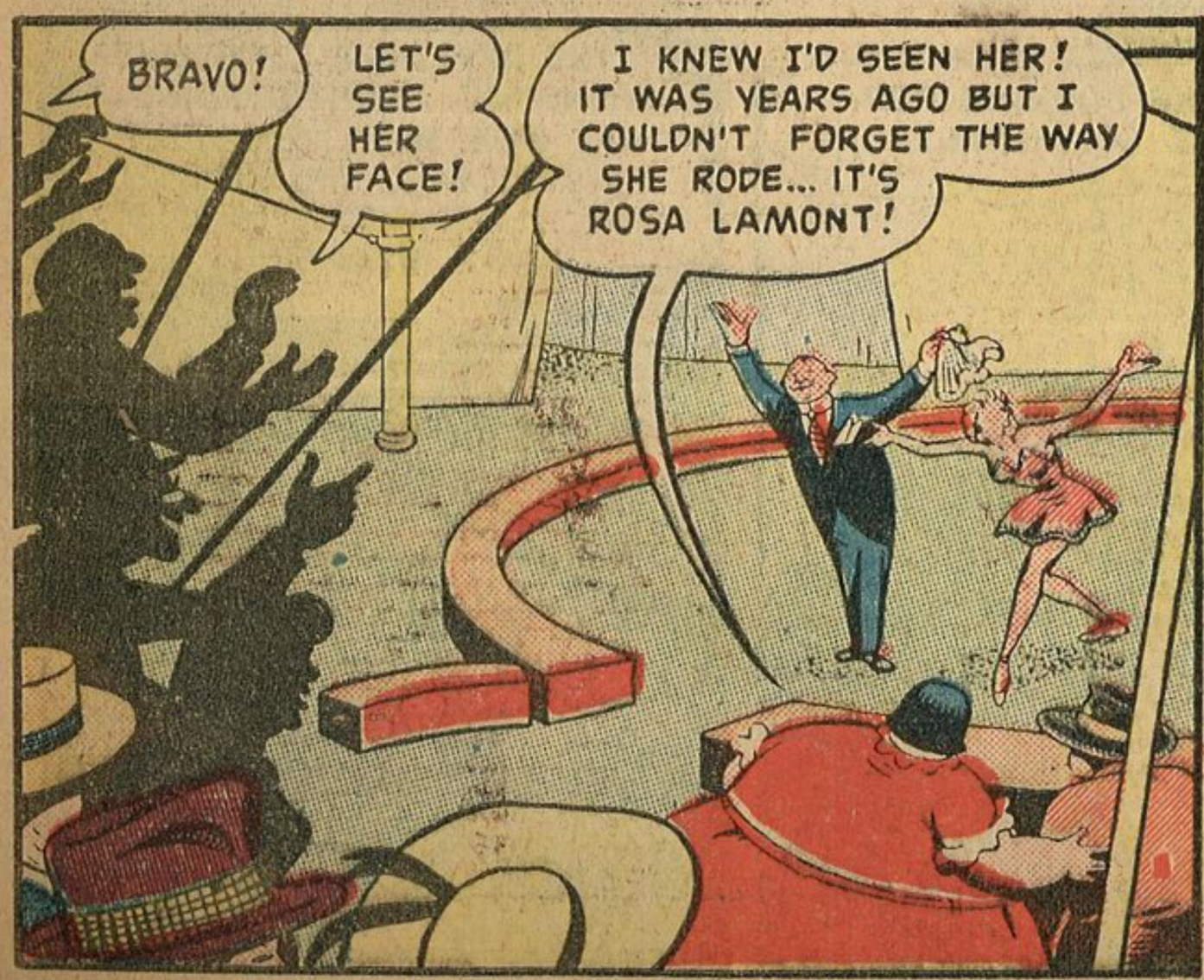

THE APPLAUSE... IT'S LIKE THUNDER! AND IT'S FOR THAT GIRL WITH THE VEIL! BY JUPITER... SHE RIDES LIKE... LIKE... THIS IS THE LAST STRAW!


THE SAWDUST RING...THE APPLAUSE IN MY EARS...THE SIGHT AND SMELL OF HORSES! WHAT'S COMING OVER ME? I'M NOT GOING TO DO WHAT I INTENDED... I FEEL AS IF SOMETHING OUTSIDE MYSELF IS MOVING ME!
UH-OH! WHAT'S THAT JOKER UP TO?


HEY, COME OUT OF THERE, GRANDPA!


YAWP! NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING!
BRAVO!
WHAT A SHOW!
LOOK AT THAT OLD MAN GO!

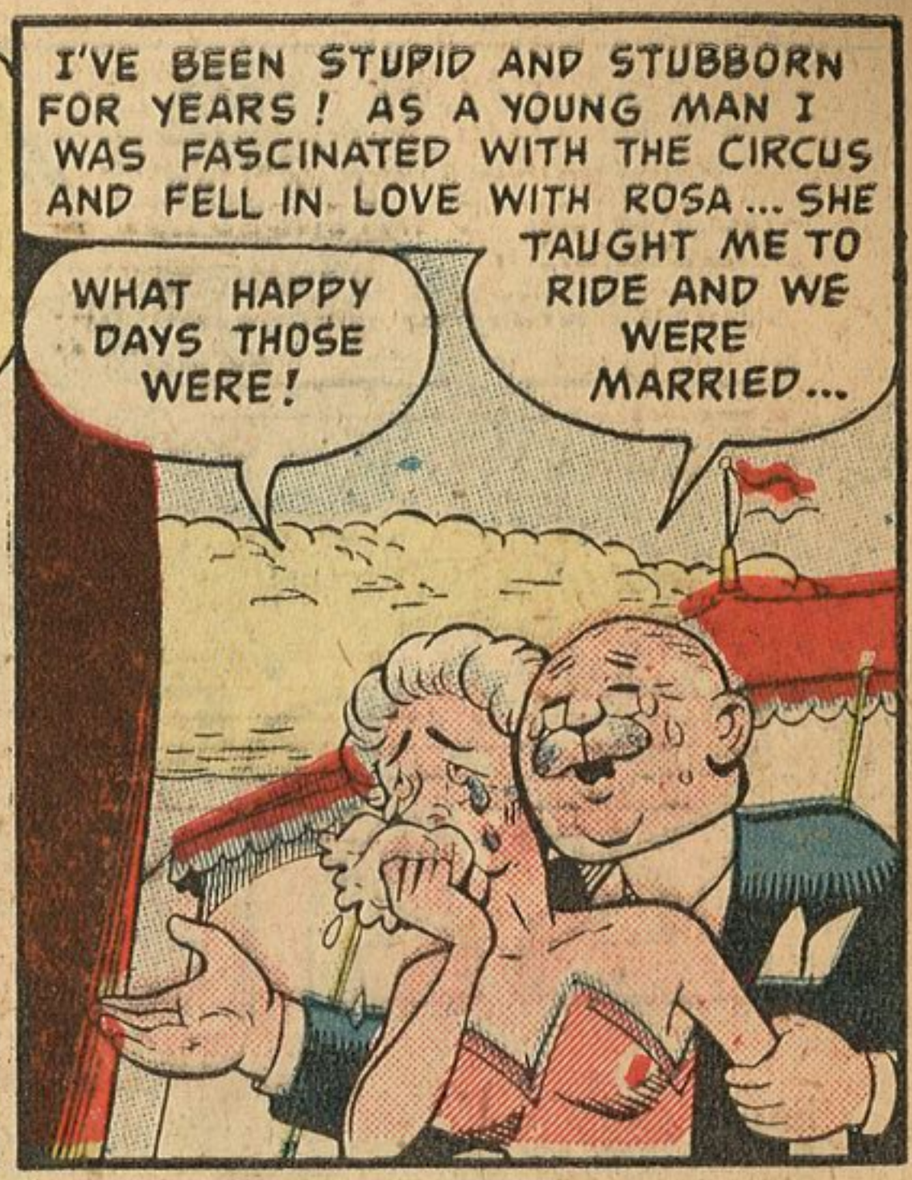

THEY'RE SENSATIONAL... BUT I DON'T GET IT!
IT'S A CINCH THEY'VE RIDDEN TOGETHER BEFORE! THE ACT'S ABOUT OVER... WE'LL GET THE DOPE IN A MINUTE...

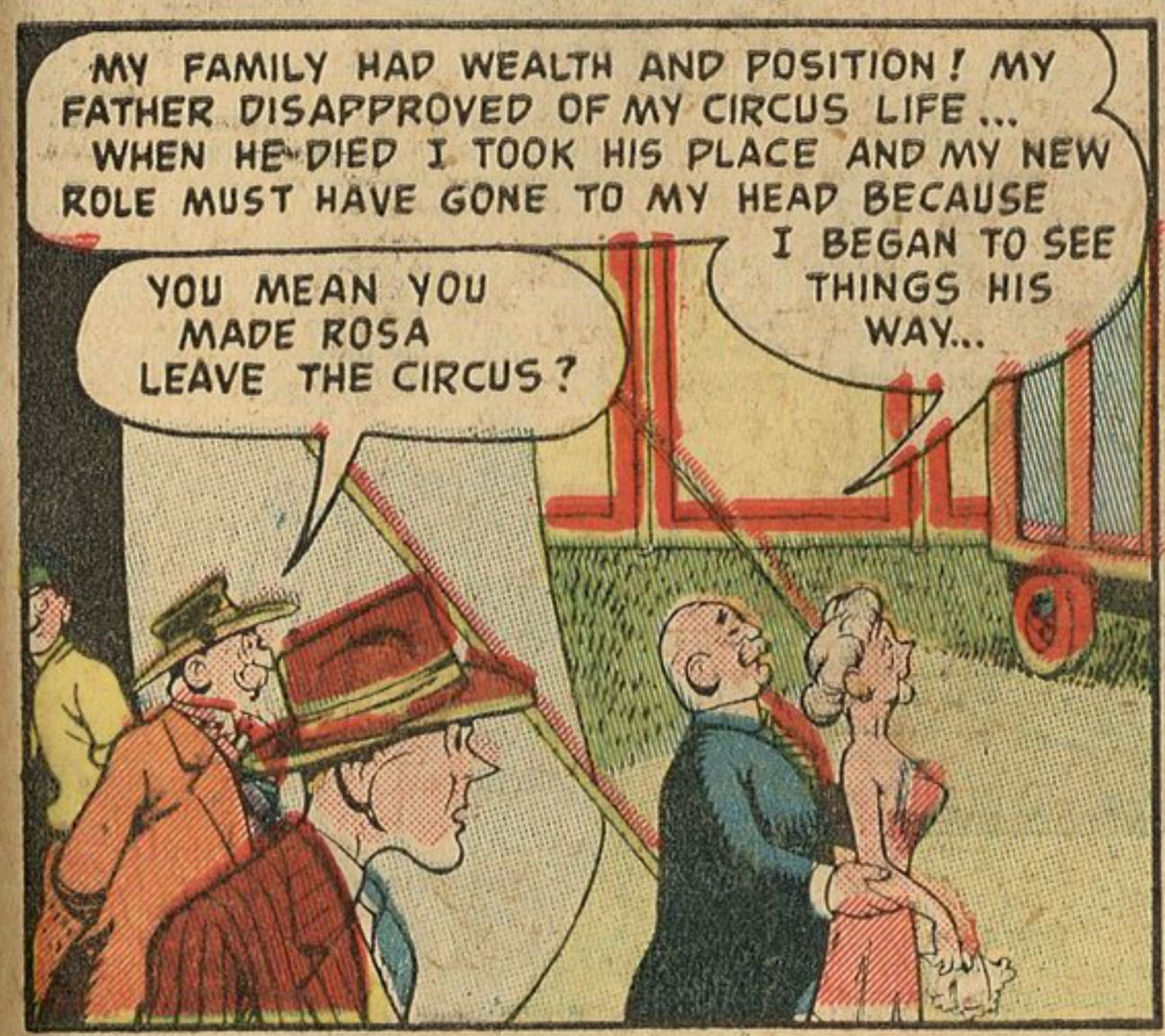

BRAVO!
LET'S SEE HER FACE!
I KNEW I'D SEEN HER! IT WAS YEARS AGO BUT I COULDN'T FORGET THE WAY SHE RODE... IT'S ROSA LAMONT!

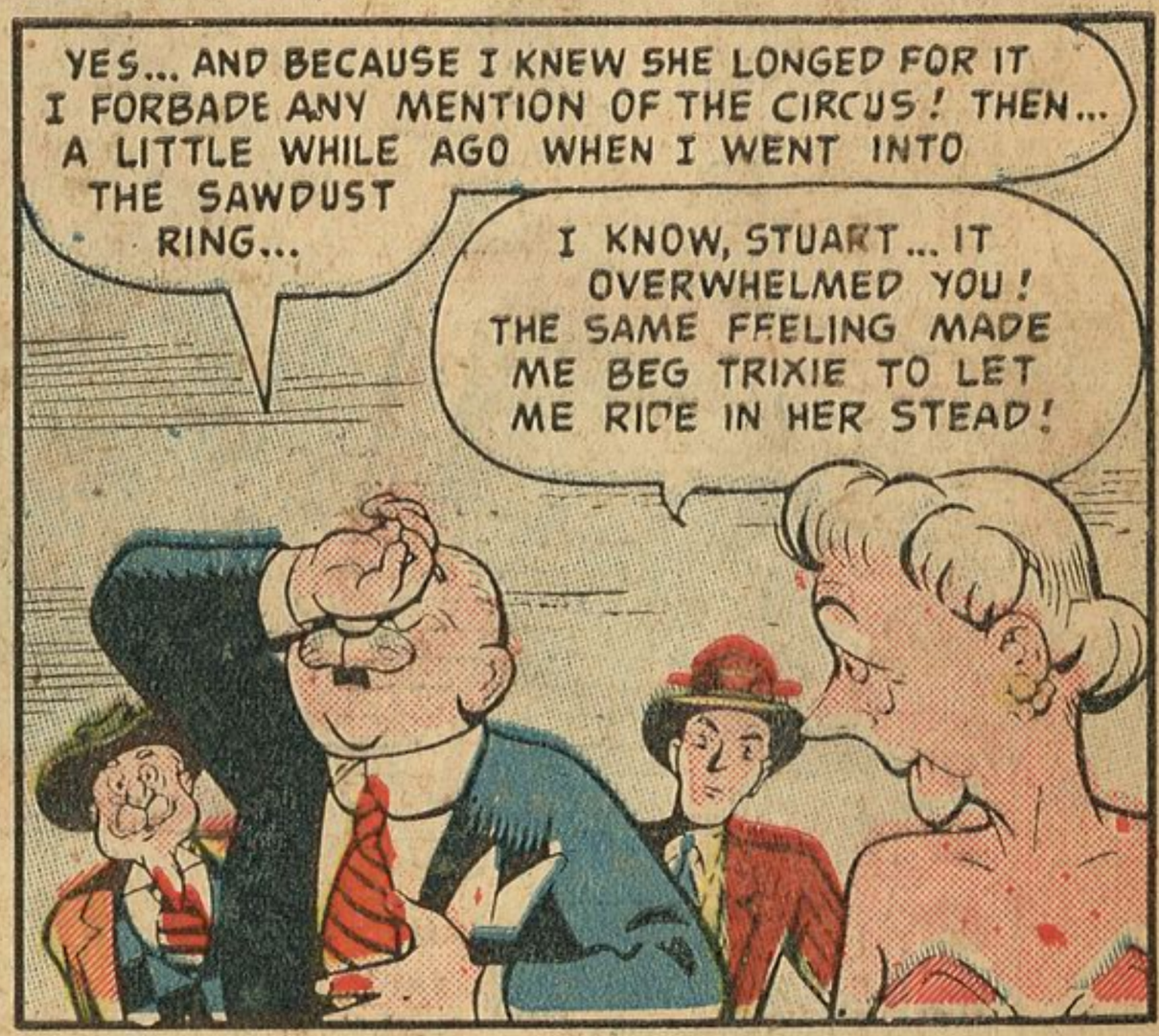
ROSA LAMONT! YES...I REMEMBER NOW! SHE USED TO BE BILLED AS THE QUEEN OF THE EQUESTRIENNES!
SAY, I'VE HEARD OF HER, TOO...PEOPLE WERE STILL TALKING ABOUT HER WHEN I MADE MY FIRST PITCH!

I'M STUART GRIDLEY AND I OWE YOU GENTLEMEN AN APOLOGY... FIRST FOR THE TROUBLE I CAUSED YOU WHEN YOU WERE SETTING UP HERE...
SO THAT WAS IT! YOU WERE BEHIND THAT FIRE!

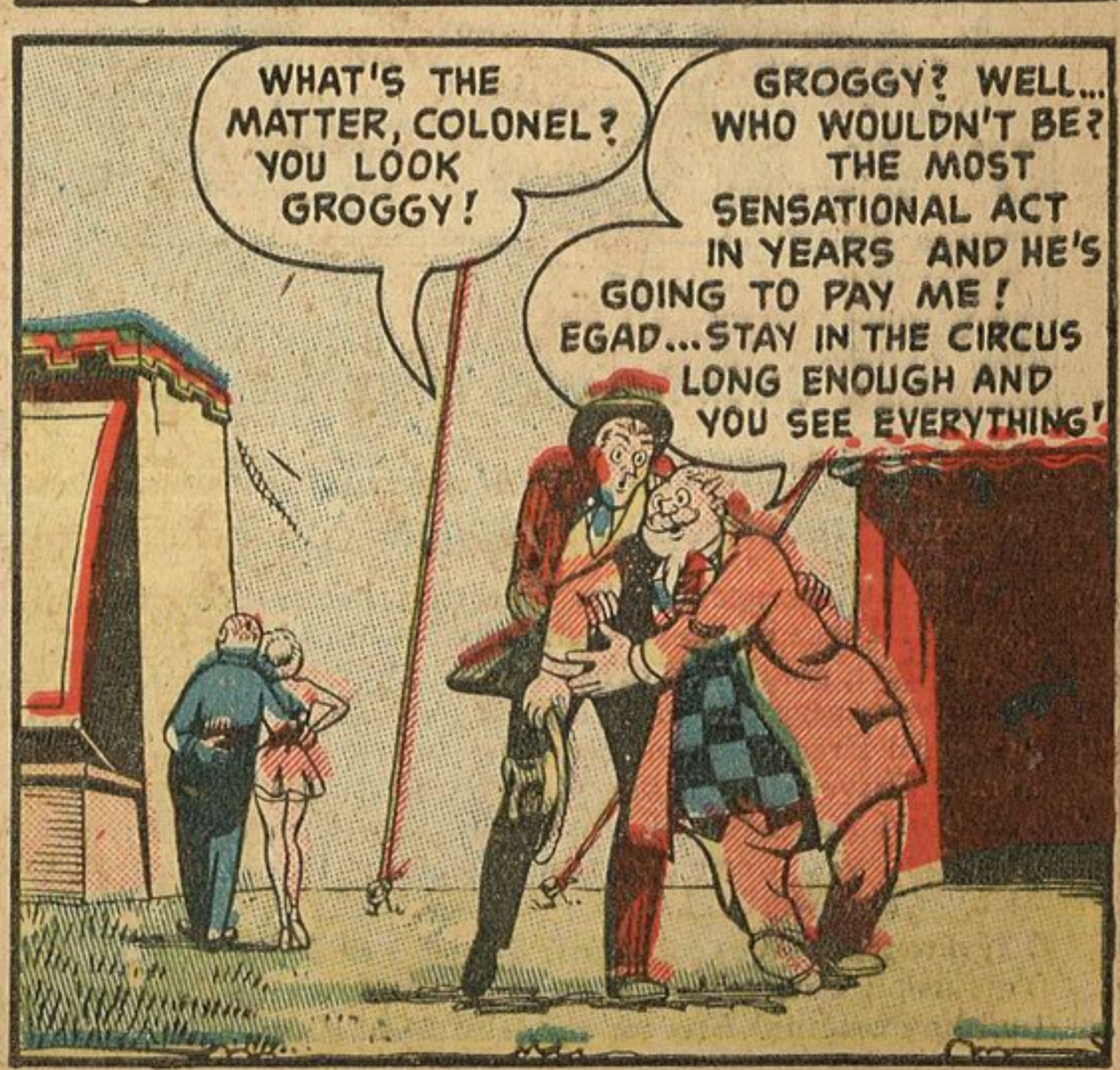
I DIDN'T WANT THAT FOOL CHAUFFEUR TO GO THAT FAR... BUT I ADMIT THAT I'VE GONE TO EXTREMES TO KEEP MY WIFE FROM ANY CONTACT WITH THE CIRCUS!


I'VE BEEN STUPID AND STUBBORN FOR YEARS! AS A YOUNG MAN I WAS FASCINATED WITH THE CIRCUS AND FELL IN LOVE WITH ROSA... SHE TAUGHT ME TO RIDE AND WE WERE MARRIED...
WHAT HAPPY DAYS THOSE WERE!


MY FAMILY HAD WEALTH AND POSITION! MY FATHER DISAPPROVED OF MY CIRCUS LIFE... WHEN HE DIED I TOOK HIS PLACE AND MY NEW ROLE MUST HAVE GONE TO MY HEAD BECAUSE I BEGAN TO SEE THINGS HIS WAY...
YOU MEAN YOU MADE ROSA LEAVE THE CIRCUS?


YES... AND BECAUSE I KNEW SHE LONGED FOR IT I FORBADE ANY MENTION OF THE CIRCUS! THEN... A LITTLE WHILE AGO WHEN I WENT INTO THE SAWDUST RING...
I KNOW, STUART... IT OVERWHELMED YOU! THE SAME FEELING MADE ME BEG TRIXIE TO LET ME RIDE IN HER STEAD!

WE'RE OLD NOW... AND THIS IS OUR LAST FLING AT LIVING! I'LL PAY YOU TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IF YOU'LL LET US RIDE FOR YOU FOR THREE MONTHS!
YOU'LL PAY US? GULP! WHY... ER... SURE... IF YOU INSIST!


WHAT'S THE MATTER, COLONEL? YOU LOOK GROGGY!
GROGGY? WELL... WHO WOULDN'T BE? THE MOST SENSATIONAL ACT IN YEARS AND HE'S GOING TO PAY ME! EGAD... STAY IN THE CIRCUS LONG ENOUGH AND YOU SEE EVERYTHING!

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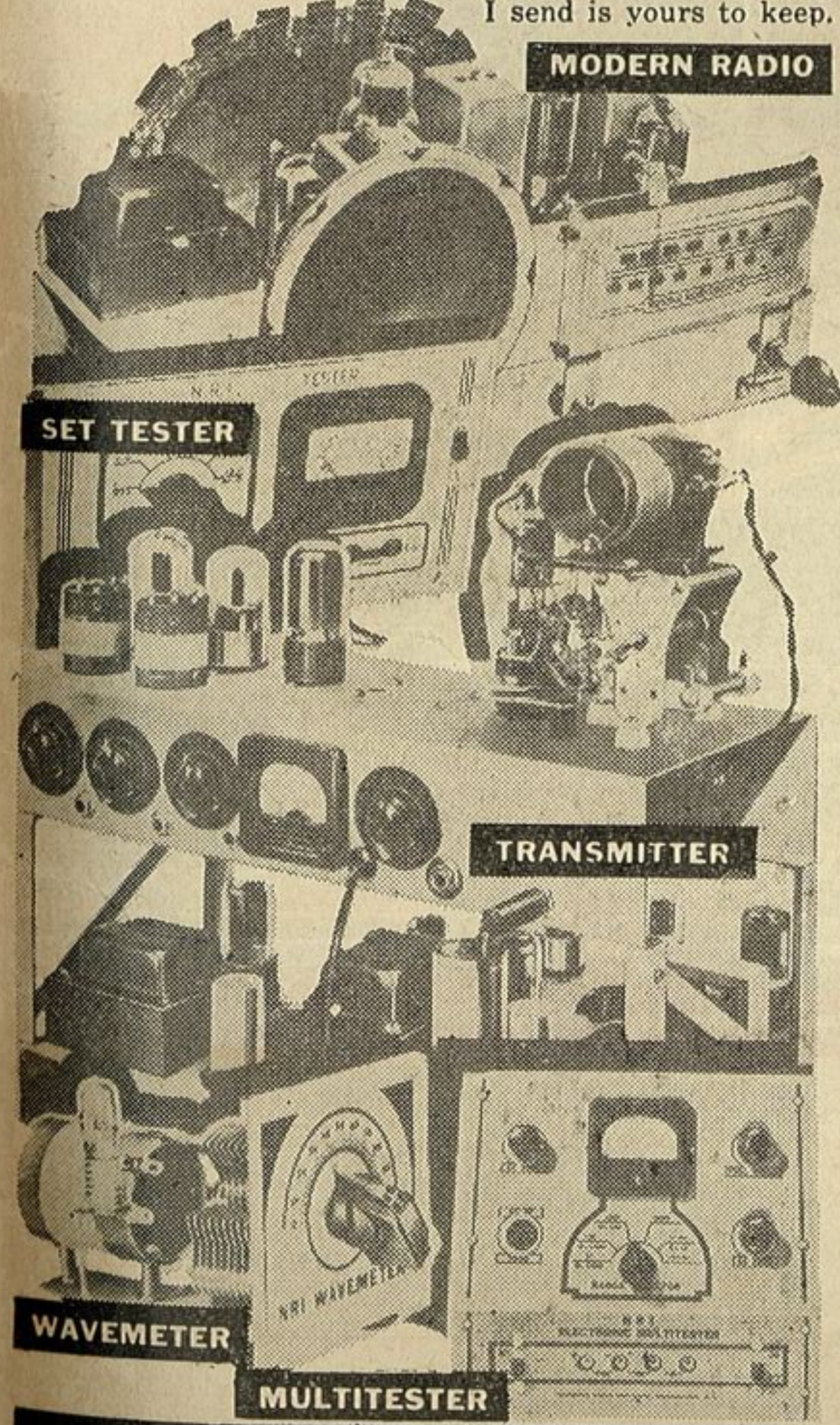

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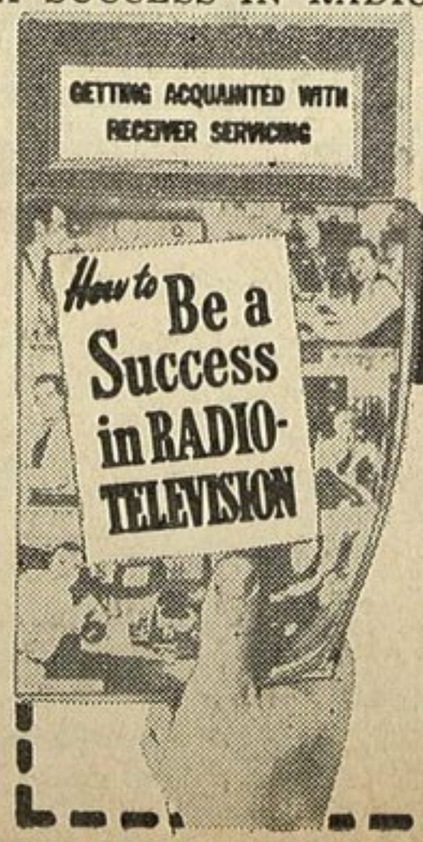

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